

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1928

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THE Eightieth Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Bath on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 17th, 18th and 19th. Over two hundred members and friends took part in the proceedings; and only on two or three previous occasions has the number been exceeded. The last meeting of the Society at Bath took place in July 1914, just three weeks before the outbreak of the great war.

### Bath Abbey

A large number of members gathered at the Abbey at 11.30 a.m., where they were welcomed by the Rector, the Ven. Archdeacon S. A. BOYD. The Rector remarking that he had nothing to add to the description of the church, which was in the *Proceedings* for 1914, when he had met the Society previously, said that there were some new facts connected with the history of the place he would like to speak about.

He first dealt with Bishop Oliver King's burial-place. In his will Bishop King directs that he shall be buried under the most eastern arch on the N. side of the choir of his church at Bath. No trace of his tomb has been found, although the arrangements made some years ago for the heating of the church by hot-water pipes placed under the floor, necessitated considerable excavation at this and other points. There is no

tradition of his having been buried here, and the Dean of Wells is of opinion that the choir of the church was not finished when the Bishop died in August 1503. It has always been understood that the burial took place at St. George's, Windsor, where also is buried his friend Sir Reginald Bray. It seems that they both died in August 1503, and that each of them had founded chantries in the church at Windsor. A few years ago, when the work of restoration of St. George's, Windsor, was proceeding, Mr. Harold Brakspear, the architect entrusted with the work, says that nothing was found, though the body may be under the table-tomb which was not disturbed, but he thinks that this is not likely, as there is no inscription upon it. There must be evidence somewhere of the place of the Bishop's interment, and it would be interesting if it could be supplied.

The Rector then mentioned the sale by auction on 16th July 1919 of a Bath Cartulary. He said: The two cartularies (the one at Lincoln's Inn and the other at Corpus Christi, Cambridge) are well known and have been admirably described by Dr. William Hunt. Till a short time ago no other was known to exist. He learnt with surprise, therefore, a few years back, that Messrs. Sotheby were about to offer for sale a manuscript Cartulary of Bath Abbey. He made an endeavour to secure it, but it went to a higher bidder. Since then he had received the following account from Mr. Dring (Messrs. Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., London):

Bath. Cartularium Abbatiae S. Petri Bathonie—Regule Canoniorum S. Swinthini de Wynton—Actus Capitulares Synode S. Andreae de Northampton.

Fine manuscript of the fourteenth century, on vellum, old stamped leather 220 pp. folio, XIV. cent.

Unique. This ancient Cartulary of Bath Abbey was quite unknown to the Editors of Dugdale's 'Monasticon'. . . . In the margins of some of the leaves are contemporary portraits of Savaricus (Abbot of Glastonbury and Bishop), Richard I, Rainaldus (Bp. of Bath), Edward I, Stephen Maureward (Rector of Corston in 1308), William Bitton (Bp. of Bath, 1258). It is very rare to find figures of this kind in a Cartulary. The binding also merits attention; the diamond shaped stampings are of unusual pattern. It is



probably the work of a Winchester binder. The floral border surrounding the centre panel deserves study, for worked in with the design are the letters R.H.M.I.

Mr. Dring adds the following note :

The Bath Abbey Cartulary was lot 610 in Sotheby's sale of July 16, 1919, which was contained in a collection of Sir Thomas Phillips' MSS., and fetched at the sale £365. It is in the library of a private English collector whose name I cannot divulge at present ; in any case, it is in perfectly safe hands. The binding is of very great interest.

The Rector said that his third point referred to the carved stones from Bathampton Bridge Mill now in the Abbey. These two Norman capitals, for many years built into the s. wall of the disused mill on the Batheaston side of the bridge at Bathampton, where they were liable to injury at any moment, are now in a safer place. By the kindness of the Lord of the Manor, he was allowed to remove the stones the better to ensure their preservation, and they have now been placed just inside the doorway as you enter the new cloister of this church. The stones are clearly Norman and the subject of one is the Flagellation of Our Lord. It is not so easy to see what is intended to be represented in the other.

Mr. F. BLIGH BOND briefly outlined the history of the Abbey which, he pointed out, was very much smaller than the great original Norman church which stood upon the site. He expressed regret that in the mid-Victorian restoration of the Abbey, the remarkable Jacobean vaulting of the nave was removed.

A vote of thanks to the Rector brought an interesting visit to an end. At 12.50 p.m. most of the members lunched together at the Royal York House Hotel.

## **The Annual Meeting**

There was an excellent attendance at the Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Concert Hall at the Pump Room by kind permission of the Mayor (Alderman Cedric Chivers). The chair was taken at 2 p.m. by the senior Vice-President, the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, in the absence of the out-

going President, Colonel J. William Gifford, F.R.A.S., and he was supported by the Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T., F.R.S., P.S.A. (*President-Designate*), the Very Rev. the Dean of Wells and Mr. Arthur F. Somerville (*Vice-Presidents*), the Rev. Father Ethelbert Horne (*Chairman of Council*), and Mr. H. St. George Gray (*Asst.-Secretary, Curator and Excursion Secretary*).

The Rt. Hon. H. HOBHOUSE in opening the meeting said that when the Society last met at Bath it consisted of 923 members ; fourteen years had elapsed, and the numbers, in spite of the drop caused during the war, had now been increased to about 1,060. He thought this a very creditable number for any county society. Their headquarters, Taunton Castle, was every year extending its interest and usefulness, thanks to the energy of Mr. Gray and the liberality of Mr. Wyndham. The speaker urged the literary members of the Society to help the editor of the *Victoria County History* by surveying their parish history and seeing that all gaps were filled in. He also mentioned the work of the National Trust and the Society for the Preservation of Rural England, and hoped that the preservation of the Lion Rock at Cheddar would be carried out.

### The Annual Report

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

‘ In presenting the eightieth annual report, the Council wishes to state that since the last meeting 51 new names have been added to the list of members. Losses by death and resignation for the year 1927-28 have been 52, and the net loss is 2. The total membership at date is 1,061, against 1,063 at the Chard Meeting last year, and 1,044 at the Glastonbury Meeting in 1926.

‘ The Society records with much regret the loss by death of Mr. H. Byard Sheppard (1903), a prominent member of the Council, and Mr. Thomas S. Bush (1892), at one time the Society’s local secretary for Bath, and the first honorary secretary of the Bath Branch. Obituary notices of these gentlemen appeared in the recently issued volume of *Proceedings*.



‘ The Society has also sustained the loss of Mr. Martin Gibbs (1887), a Vice-President, a contributor to the Museum and Library, and one who generously supported the Society’s funds, as did Mr. J. B. Paynter (1886), who had acted as local secretary for Yeovil for many years, and Sir George A. Wills, Bart. (1909), who died last week.

‘ In addition the Council regrets to record the death of : Mr. G. B. Batchelor (1915) ; Mr. E. R. Chaffey (1916) ; Mr. T. W. Chant (1902) ; Major Griffith Davies (1905), treasurer of the Weston-super-Mare Branch of the Society ; Mr. E. J. Jenkins (1922) ; Mr. St. David M. Kemeys-Tynte (1877), who made some useful presents to the Library ; Dr. J. A. Macdonald (1892) ; Lt.-Col. W. L. Morgan, F.S.A. (1911) ; Mr. W. H. Rendell (1920) ; Mr. C. A. Rowley, A.R.I.B.A. (1919) ; the Rev. C. W. Shickle, F.S.A. (1914) ; Miss Archer Thompson (1905) ; and Mr J. G. Vile (1898).

‘ There was a balance in hand of £253 9s. 9d., including £50 placed on reserve for repairs, on the Society’s General Account, at the end of 1926. This was reduced to £202 13s. 5d. on December 31, 1927. On the other hand there was a mortgage outstanding with regard to the repair of Castle Lodge amounting to £300. As reported last year, it has been found necessary to expend a considerable amount upon this house on the w. side of the Society’s property.

‘ The expenses attending the issue of the *Proceedings* for 1927 (recently produced) amount to £259 12s. 5d. With its two appendices, it is the largest volume published since Vol. lxi for 1915, and contains some fifty pages more than the average volume issued since the war.

‘ As arranged with the architects and contractors the building of the Wyndham Lecture Hall was completed in the early autumn, and the opening ceremony took place on October 11th, when there was a good attendance of members. The chair was taken by Colonel J. W. Gifford, President for 1927–28, and the chief speakers for the occasion were Dr. J. Wells, ex-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford and ex-Warden of Wadham College, Sir Henry Miers, and Mr. F. Howard, H.M. Inspector of Schools for the South-West. Mr. W. Wyndham was also present, and was cordially thanked. As previously

reported, Mr. Wyndham gave the Society the sum of £1,475 for the erection and equipment of this hall, to be used primarily by the Wyndham Lecture Trust for the Taunton Elementary and Secondary Schools, and at other times as the Society thought fit.

‘ But Mr. Wyndham’s generosity did not cease with this gift, for when the Council was somewhat perplexed as how to acquire the adjoining house and land, known as the Tone House property (much of which was actually within the Castle precincts), he came forward at the right moment and presented the sum of £2,000 to purchase the property of which the Society had secured the option. Again, the Council had the pleasant duty to perform of thanking Mr. Wyndham for his munificence.

‘ Since possession of this property was taken on November 9th, the Development Committee has met on several occasions to consider the best method of procedure with regard to the extension of the Museum and offices for carrying on the Society’s work more efficiently.

‘ A short time ago it was decided to secure the services of Sir George H. Oatley, the architect of the University of Bristol, to study the position and later to advise the Council as to the best course to pursue in submitting a scheme, or schemes, for the extension of the Society’s premises to relieve the congestion that exists both in the Museum and Library departments.

‘ Bearing upon this matter is the continuation and completion of certain sections of the excavations on the eastern side of the courtyard of the Castle, for it is obvious to those who know the site well, that no part of the Society’s property in this situation could be built upon before it is ascertained whether any further ancient walls and foundations exist which should be protected, or incorporated in any building scheme which may be projected. This work of excavation and clearing the site is being continued during the summer, and the Taunton Town Council will be removing the debris in the autumn to provide foundations for the new market near the railway station,—the present market being outside the Castle gates, in the area which was formerly the outer bailey of the Castle.

‘ Although no general appeal has yet been made for funds for the extension of the Museum, some of our members have



kindly made contributions in advance (including £150 given by Colonel Gifford), and from this—the Extension Fund,—money is, at the moment, available for clearing the site, but it will soon have to be considerably supplemented, necessitating the issue of a general appeal.

‘Lt.-Colonel H. R. Phipps, who was thanked in the last annual report, has continued the work of indexing and arranging the Society’s manuscripts.

‘Mr. Wyndham has given a portrait of Judge Jeffreys, attributed to Kneller. It has been hung in the Great Hall over the double doors by which the judge would have entered the assize court.

‘Owing to the increasing work at the Society’s headquarters, a pupil-assistant has been added to the former staff, and the telephone has been installed (Taunton 429).

‘The Society is fully alive to the importance of carrying on excavations in the county, and a good deal of work has been in progress from time to time since the last annual meeting, besides the digging at Taunton Castle previously referred to.

‘The excavations at the w. end of the nave of Glastonbury Abbey were resumed on May 14th, and it is hoped to continue them, under the new arrangements, during the summer. The joint committee of the Society of Antiquaries and our own Society met at the Abbey at the end of April; and, owing to Mr. T. Fyfe’s ties at Cambridge, precluding any long-continued work at Glastonbury, the following officers were appointed to carry on the work: *Directors*, Mr. C. R. Peers (chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments), Mr. A. W. Clapham, and the Rev. Father Horne; *sub-Director*, Mr. C. E. Clayton; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. H. St. George Gray.

‘Archæological investigations at the Meare Lake Village carried on early in September by Dr. A. Bulleid and Mr. St. George Gray were not so fruitful as usual, owing to the heavy rainfall and consequent flooding of the ground, causing complete stoppage of the work. The excavations, however, will be resumed for three weeks from August 27th.

‘The exploration of Kingsdown Camp, Mells, has proved to be most interesting, the work being carried out during part of last August and again this spring. The work was rendered

possible by a substantial donation made by Lord Hylton and other contributions. In construction the site appears to be of two dates, and some of the first century Roman remains are of great interest.

‘Last month Father Horne continued the examination of some Saxon graves at a quarry at Camerton. It is proposed to continue the excavations at Ham Hill (S. Somerset) in the autumn. The work at the Roman site at Yeovil was resumed last week.

‘Since the last annual meeting Muchelney Abbey has been put under the guardianship of the Commissioners of Works, and its repair is already well in hand. It is much to be regretted that the site of the Abbey church cannot also be placed under their care. The scheduling of the Bath city walls, some bridges, and several minor monuments has been carried out. The attention of members is called particularly to the list of scheduled monuments in the county, which will be found at the end of the volume of *Proceedings*, and they will see how their assistance in the matter of protection is needed.

‘With regard to Ilchester Bridge the new scheme for widening, improving and strengthening is stated to provide for preserving the present features of the bridge in the new elevation.

‘In his excellent report to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, recently published, Sir Henry Miers mentioned six museums, including York, Lewes and Taunton, as “examples in which the societies are able to conduct them efficiently under present conditions.” But maintenance of the collections and buildings on the scale now expected by the public will, in the future, be a matter of some difficulty, unless supported by grants from public funds. Sir H. Miers finds, to his great surprise, that at the present time only three museums in the country (namely, Aylesbury, Haslemere and St. Albans) receive a direct grant from the educational committees of county councils in recognition of their educational services!

‘Taunton Castle was visited during 1927 by 8,650 persons, including 2,168 attendances from members, as against 8,289 persons in 1926. The fluctuations during recent years have been very slight, and only in two years has there been a larger attendance than in 1927.



‘ In accordance with Rule II one-third of the elected members of the Council retire annually by rotation. Those retiring at this meeting are the Rev. Father E. Horne, Lt.-Col. H. R. Phipps, Mr. Philip Sturdy and Mr. Henry Symonds, all of whom have been nominated for re-election. The vacancy on the Council caused by the death of Mr. H. Byard Sheppard has been filled by Mr. William Wyndham, and awaits confirmation at this meeting.

‘ The Council also recommends the appointment of Colonel J. W. Gifford as a vice-president of the Society, his period of office as President expiring to-day.’

Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE, in moving the adoption of the report, said it showed what good, steady work the Society was doing. They all owed a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Wyndham for his splendid gifts, not only to the Society, but also for educational work in the county. He hoped that his gift of Tone House and its garden would gradually lead to the increase of space for the purposes of the museum and library. The matter of room for the growing collections of the Society was its most urgent need.

The Rev. J. BYRCHMORE seconded, and the report was adopted.

## Finances

The Rev. Father E. HORNE, in the absence of Mr. A. E. Eastwood (Chairman of Finance), asked the meeting to formally adopt the Accounts of the Society for the year 1927, which had already been published in the *Proceedings*, vol. lxxiii. This was accordingly done.





SPECIAL ACCOUNTS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1928

	WOODWARD FUND	WIGLESWORTH COLLECTION	BGOK FUND	MUSEUM CASES FUND	MEARE LAKE VILLAGE CASES FUND	BOTANY FUND
<i>Sundry Investments :</i>						
New Zealand 4% Stock ... ..			107 11 4			
Balances brought forward ... ..	151 9 7	18 10 11		0 16 3	18 13 5	8 3 3
<i>Add :</i>						
Interest for Year ... ..	3 16 7	0 9 0			0 9 0	0 5 6
Grant from Botanical Section ... ..						4 0 0
<i>Less Transfers to Current Account</i> ... ..	£155 6 2 4 8 0	18 19 11 0 13 3	107 11 4	0 16 3	19 2 5	12 8 9
Balances forward to 1929 ... ..	£150 18 2	18 6 8	107 11 4	0 16 3	19 2 5	12 8 9

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

By Balances from 1927:	DR.	CR.
5% War Loan Bonds £400 at cost ... ..		384 15 3
Deposit at Bank ... ..		0 4 0
To Balance carried forward to 1929 ... ..	384 19 3	
	<u>£384 19 3</u>	<u>384 19 3</u>





## CAMERTON SAXON CEMETERY EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
To Donations made by Members of the Bath Branch, S.A.&N.H.S.	21	10	0	By Wages of Workmen and Insurance	23	8	5
„ Anonymous Benefactor for ex-Service Men through the Society of Antiquaries	14	3	8	„ Carriage of Shed, etc.	0	10	0
				„ Carriage of Stone Coffin to the County Museum	2	10	0
				„ Hire of Car for Director	2	15	0
				„ Printing 300 Circulars	3	0	0
				„ Postage of ditto	0	14	0
				„ Balance in hands of Treasurer	2	16	3
	£35	13	8		£35	13	8

ETHELBERT HORNE,  
*Hon. Treasurer and Director.*

## KINGSDOWN CAMP EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE EXCAVATIONS IN 1927 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
To Donations :				By Wages of Workmen and Insurance	88	14	11
The Rt. Hon. Lord Hylton	32	0	0	„ Employers' Liability Insurance	0	4	0
The Abbot of Downside	7	0	0	„ Travelling Expenses :			
Major Leadbitter	8	0	0	Mr. H. St. George Gray	5	3	8
Bath Branch, S.A.&N.H.S.	7	0	0	Dr. F. S. Wallis	0	5	0
Dr. A. Bulleid	3	3	0	Foreman Excavator	3	4	3
Various small donations	3	11	0	„ Night Watchman at Taunton Castle	0	15	0
„ Grant, Research Account, Society of Antiquaries	10	0	0	„ Postage, Telegrams, etc.	0	5	1
„ Anonymous Benefactor for ex-Service Men through the Society of Antiquaries	31	8	6	„ Incidental Expenses	0	11	8
	£102	2	6	„ Balance in hands of the Treasurer	2	18	11
					£102	2	6

ETHELBERT HORNE,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*  
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

## HAM HILL EXCAVATION FUND

(No Excavations were carried out during 1928).

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1927	7	16 10	By Employers' Liability Insurance, Sun Insurance		
„ Grant from Society of Antiquaries of London	10	0 0	Office, Policy No. W71176 (see Contra)		1 5 6
„ Grant from Royal Archaeological Institute	5	0 0	„ Balance, 31st December 1928:		
„ Donations	1	11 6	Deposit Account	22	6 5
„ Bank Interest	0	7 7	Current Account	2	9 6
„ Employers' Liability Insurance, Shares of Premium paid by Glastonbury Abbey and Meare Lake Village Excavation Funds (see Contra)	1	5 6			24 15 11
	<u>£26</u>	<u>1 5</u>			<u>£26</u>
					<u>1 5</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Director.*

## MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATION FUND

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance at Bank—31st December 1927	18	16 7	By Wages and Insurance of Workmen		58 18 10
„ Donations	25	14 6	„ Employers' Liability Insurance and Insurance of Shed		0 18 0
„ Government Grant ( <i>per</i> The Royal Society)	20	0 0	„ Travelling Expenses and Transport of Specimens		8 2 8
„ Grant—Research Fund, Society of Antiquaries of London	10	0 0	„ Compensation to Tenant		7 0 0
„ Anonymous Benefactor for ex-Service Men through the Society of Antiquaries	22	8 2	„ Joint Director (Mr. H. St. George Gray):		
„ Gate Money	13	4 0	Personal Expenses		8 10 1
„ Royalty, Copy of Fibula	0	2 6	Honorarium		10 10 0
„ Bank Interest	0	5 8	Photographs		2 17 0
			Tools and Appliances		2 2 11
			Postages, Telegram and Stationery		0 8 0
			„ Balances at Bank		11 3 11
	<u>£110</u>	<u>11 5</u>			<u>£110</u>
					<u>11 5</u>

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Joint Secretary and Director.*  
JOHN MORLAND, *Hon. Treasurer.*



## GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	
To Balance at Bank ... ..	87	8	7		By Wages and Insurance of Workmen ... ..		172	14	3	
„ Grant from the Administrative Trustees, Glastonbury Abbey ... ..	125	0	0		„ Travelling Expenses of Officers, 1928 ... ..		15	13	11	
„ Grant from Royal Archaeological Institute ... ..	10	0	0		„ Mr. Charles E. Clayton, Sub-Director ... ..		53	11	0	
„ Box Collections during the season at Glastonbury Abbey ... ..	96	3	8		„ Fencing, Gates, etc., and Carting of Rails and Trucks ... ..			8	4	4
„ Interest on Deposit Account ... ..	1	12	9		„ Mr. Theodore Fyfe, his Plans and Drawings ... ..		10	2	0	
					„ Postages ... ..		0	6	9	
					„ Cheque Book ... ..		0	2	0	
					„ Balance at Bank, 1st January, 1929 :					
					Deposit Account ... ..	53	19	6		
					Current Account ... ..	5	11	3		
							59	10	9	
H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, <i>Hon. Treasurer.</i>	£320	5	0				£320	5	0	

Finances

All the above Accounts audited and found correct, 4th February, 1929.

A. C. MOLE & CO., *Incorporated Accountants, Taunton.*

## The New President

Colonel E. ST. C. PEMBERTON proposed the election of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres as President of the Society for the ensuing year. He said that in his lordship they had one who had striven to do public work of the highest utility and benefit to the nation; but their Society welcomed him more particularly owing to his prominence in the archaeological world. Another qualification which would bring them into touch with Lord Crawford was his work on the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, which owed its origin to his efforts.

Mr. PHILIP STURDY seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

## Election of Officers

Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY proposed that the officers of the Society be re-elected, including the four outgoing members of the Council, viz., the Rev. Father E. Horne, Lt.-Col. H. R. Phipps, Mr. Philip Sturdy and Mr. Henry Symonds; also the election of Colonel J. W. Gifford as a vice-president of the Society; and Mr. Wm. Wyndham as a member of Council to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Mr. H. B. Sheppard.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Preb. W. T. REEDER, and carried.

## Somerset Record Society

The Rev. Preb. T. F. PALMER, Secretary of the Record Society, said it had been thought advisable to enlarge the Council which directed the Society's operations. The five new members were resident in or near the county, so that the gathering of a quorum would be an easy matter whenever circumstances demanded. An extension of interest was expected from this enlargement.

The preparation of the volume *Muchelney Memoranda* (xlii) had taken longer than was at first anticipated. It could not be issued before the end of the year or the beginning of 1929.