

# RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,

OR PAPERS AND NOTES ON THE  
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, AND ARCHITECTURE  
OF THE COUNTY;

TOGETHER WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
Architectural and Archæological Society

FOR THE  
COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

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## MEMORABILIA MCMXIX.

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Our President, Lord Rosebery, has lately made a valuable gift to the nation in presenting to the Print Room of the British Museum a book of highly-finished Italian drawings, of about 1460, which has long been preserved at Mentmore. These drawings, which are not absolutely identified, have been attributed to Mantegna, but differ from his authenticated work while greatly showing his influence. It seems not unlikely that this greater accessibility to students may lead to their identification. The book consists of 30 leaves of vellum, of which 28 are filled with drawings on both sides. Lord Rosebery has also given a complete little sketch-book of studies by Nicolas Berghem.

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The year was, amongst other things, a great year of sales. So many large estates in England were sold that it was, not inaptly, said that England was "changing hands." In this county sales of moveables were more remarkable than those of real estate. Of these, the Britwell Court Library takes a first place. It is described by Messrs. Sotheby as "108 exceedingly choice, rare and valuable books from the renowned library at Britwell Court, the property of Mr. C. R. Christie Miller." No less a sum than £110,356 was realised—a record for one day's sale of books. *The Times* (Dec. 17, 1919) reported that Mr. G. D. Smith (the American agent, whose death has since been announced) bought to the amount of £84,705. \* "Most of the books having been bought during the second and third quarters of the last century, *The Times* estimates the profit on them at about 90 per cent. on their cost."

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\* It is supposed that a considerable proportion of his purchases will find a permanent home in Mr. H. E. Huntingdon's library, the finest in the world in private hands.

*The Times* continues: "Until recent years the Britwell Court Library was guarded with the strictest secrecy, and even serious scholars were not allowed access. The reason for this may now be given. Lot 99, a fine copy of the first edition of Spencer's *Faerie Queene*, 1590—'96, was stolen from the shelves by a lady who with a friend visited the great uncle of the present Mr. Christie Miller, and had tea with him. No trace could be found of the book, which was returned many years later by a priest."

The highest price realised for a single volume was reached by one containing Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*, 1599, the only copy known, bound up with the "*Passionate Pilgrim and Sonnets*, 1599," of which only two other copies are known, and Davies and Marlow's *Epigrammes and Elegies*, 1598. This was started by Mr. G. D. Smith at £2,000, and followed by Mr. Dring (of Quaritch's) at £5,000, and eventually fell to Mr. Smith at £15,100, the highest price ever paid for a book at auction, either printed or MS. The first edition of Gray's "*Elegy*," 1751, brought £750.

Some fine decorative furniture was sold in November at Great Brickhill Manor House by Messrs. Wigley and Sons, of Winslow, who issued a good illustrated catalogue. This collection included some pieces from Stowe House which Sir Everard P. Duncombe tells me were bought at the great sale at Stowe by his great-grandfather. Amongst them are some decorative pieces designed by William Kent, architect and *protégé* of the Earl of Burlington, about which I hope to have more to say in our next issue.

W. N.

## OBITUARY.

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The year 1919 was fatal to a good many members of our Society.

Mrs. Napier Higgins died in January at the advanced age of 90 years. She was a benefactor to our Museum, having given one of the new plate-glass and metal cases.

Mr. F. C. Carr-Gomm, Farnham Chase, who died in the same month, contributed a paper upon Eustace Mascoll's Brass in Farnham Royal Church to Part 6 of our last vol.

Mr. Harold Russell (d. Feb. 14, 1919) was the only son of Canon Russell, rector of Beachampton, and Lady Mary Russell. He was a barrister, and for some years a member of our committee. He contributed a paper on the brasses at Thornton. He had a good collection of Bookplates, with a knowledge of heraldry. He was a bachelor, and had travelled a good deal.

Sir William Osler was not a member of this Society, but well known to many Bucks people. Dr. Bradbrook tells me that he came to Fenny Stratford for St. Martin's Day in 1916, and spoke to the memory of Browne Willis at the dinner, and dealt with the history of Dr. J. Willis, grandfather of Browne Willis, and lord of the manor of Bletchley, Whaddon, and Water-Eaton. This festival was founded by a former Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford.

In our last issue, on an inserted slip, reference was made to the serious illness of Mr. George Turner De Fraine. We have now, after a long interval, to take this opportunity to record his death, which occurred so long ago as October, 1918. He took more than a mere business interest in RECORDS, of which he was for so many years the printer, and, as one who was brought much into contact with him, it is a pleasure to bear witness to his unflinching courtesy.

## SIR WILLIAM ST. JOHN HOPE,

Whose death occurred in August last, is a loss not only to this Society, of which he was an honorary member and a contributor to our RECORDS, also to other local Societies, the Archæological Institute, etc., but a loss to the science of archæology generally which, in his own special line of study, can hardly be replaced. For our last excursion the writer tried to get him to meet us at Wycombe and say a few words upon the church, a study of which had convinced him that it had formerly had a central tower. Doubts which were expressed as to this were set at rest by the finding by the late Mr. Parker, of Wycombe, of the actual contract for the taking down of this tower and making good the arcades, walls, etc. But it was too late, and he had to say that he had not strength enough to undertake it.

The monograph upon Fountains Abbey, which appeared in Vol. XV. of the Yorkshire Archæological Journal, and those upon the Cathedral Church and Monastic Buildings of Rochester, contributed to *Archæologia Cantiana*, may be cited as special examples of the thoroughness of his research.\* He worked in conjunction with Mr. G. E. Fox upon the Roman remains at Silchester. Dr. Wickham Legg was associated with him in publishing "The Inventories of Christ Church, Canterbury." One of the finest of modern English heraldic publications is "The Stall-Plates of the Knights of the Garter at Windsor," and during the last years of his life he made a catalogue of the seals in the Public Record Office. I have heard him say that the highest art of nations in the past has shown itself in seals.

He received the honour of Knighthood for his great work on Windsor Castle, undertaken at the command of Queen Victoria and King Edward, which had occupied him some ten years.

For 25 years Hope was Assistant Secretary to the Antiquaries, the routine duties of which post did not prevent an enormous output of papers which he read

to us, and which are printed in *Archæologia*, mostly dealing with English Mediæval Monastic Architecture, on which he was easily the highest authority. In tracing out the complete plan of an abbey or other building from what seemed perhaps to most of us only confusion, he had no equal.

\* *Times*, Aug. 22nd, 1913.

W. N.

# The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archaeological Society

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

## ANNUAL EXCURSION.

This took place on July 10th, High Wycombe and West Wycombe being visited as reported in the *Bucks Herald*, July 12, 1919

The Church of All Saints\* came first, and Mr. R. S. Downs acted as guide. A visit was next made to the remains of the ancient Hospital of St. John in Easton Street, which dates from A.D. 1175†. The 13th century Chapel, of which only a portion of the north wall remains, was formerly used as the Grammar School. Luncheon was served at the Red Lion Hotel; afterwards a move was made to West Wycombe House, to which the party was admitted by the kind permission of Sir John Lindsay Dashwood, Bart., and the tenant, A. W. Gilmour, Esq. The best account of this house and grounds known to the writer is that in *Country Life* of Jan 1st, 1916, where it is also admirably illustrated. To come down to the time when the Dashwoods first became connected with West Wycombe: Thomas Lewis, Alderman of London, granted it in 1698 to his brothers-in-law, Sir Samuel and Sir Francis Dashwood. The latter, who became the owner, was born 1658, and created first baronet in 1707, but it was a successor, who became baronet in 1762 and was created Baron le Despenser, who left his mark so much on house, church and grounds as we see them to-day. He re-built the church on the hill, and, judging by the numerous temples, etc., in the grounds, he must have had the building fever almost as strongly as his distant neighbour at Stowe. Indeed, it would seem that he made a real attempt to emulate Stowe‡ on a smaller scale, in the way of artificial water, temples, grottoes, and other garden buildings. Thus we find, amongst buildings which still survive, "Daphne's Temple," a sheltered seat, the more ambitious "Island Temple," the "Temple of the four winds," the "Great Archway and Cockpit." The "Saw Mill" was of three blocks of symmetrical design.

Of the four fronts of the mansion the north is the most satisfactory, because it is not overdone with colonnades like the other three. The house has the disadvantage of standing on a northern slope, but the undulating and beautifully timbered park gives a great charm. Lord le Despenser only followed the fashion of the time in seeking for stateliness rather than comfort; a house with an entrance in all four fronts may be stately, but can hardly be comfortable. The great hall is divided into three sections by columns with the famous mahogany staircase at the western end. The handsome saloon has been used as the dining-room, but is a long way from the kitchen. †

\* Records IX., 7, 13, 19, 27, etc.

† Records IX., 310.

‡ Records X., 51.

§ Vitruvius Brit. vol v., 1771, gives a plan and elevation of the house bearing the unknown name of Donowell.

The strange so-called Mausoleum in the churchyard on the opposite hill was due to a legacy left by George, Lord Doddington, whose diary is so often quoted for its detail of the first years of the reign of George III. This is a great erection unenclosed of hexagonal form, of which each side is decorated with four attached columns of the Tuscan order supporting a complete entablature and parapet with vases, each side having a central archway with smaller openings between the other columns. The frieze is inscribed, "To George Doddington, Baron de Melcombe Regis." It is more a very ambitious and monumental screen than a mausoleum, and encloses several family memorials.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Was held at the Museum, Nov. 27th, 1919. Mr. W. Niven presided over rather a small attendance. The Honorary Secretary presented the annual report, which showed that 6,660 people, exclusive of children, visited the Museum during the year. In 1914 there were 326 members of this Society, and the income was less than £150. At present there were 270 members and the income about £120, while expenses had doubled. The maintenance of the Museum alone, with the strictest economy, cost £150 per annum; so that it was only the generosity of a few of our more enthusiastic members which saved us from a state of insolvency. The Society, to be able to pay its own way, required a membership of at least 500.

The Curator reported that during the year 180 gifts for the Museum were received. Of 200 trade tokens known to have been issued the Society now held 191.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President: The Earl of Rosbery. Vice-Presidents: Lord Boston, Viscount Hambledon, Bishops of Oxford and Buckingham, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. A. H. Cocks, Mr. J. Elliman, Lady Smyth, Mr. J. Berry, with the addition of Lady Liberty. The Council were re-elected, adding Rev. V. L. Whitechurch and Capt. Stewart Liberty. Mr. F. W. Pixley was elected hon. treasurer on the resignation of Mr. C. G. Watkins, who was thanked for his services.

Both of the Society's representatives attended the Congress of Archaeological Societies held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Nov. 28, 1919. The Council recorded its deep sense of the loss which archaeology has suffered by the death of Sir William Hope.

A plea was made by Dr. Philip Norman for greater care of the few remaining fine examples of the older country cottage.

W. N.

## ACQUISITIONS TO MUSEUM, 1917-19.

The following are the more important items from the Curator's Reports:—

RAT (albino) *Mus decumanus*=*Epimys norvegicus*, (Barrett-Hamilton, from Berkenhout), caught in Aylesbury (Police-Sergt. Fennimore).

"BROADSHEET," 1642. A declaration, etc., for defence against Papists and others gathered at Brill (Col. the Hon. T. Fremantle).

"PARISH REGISTER OF SWANBOURNE" (Lord Cottesloe).  
18th Century TRADE TOKENS, Aylesbury and Chesham, Boyne 2, 18, and 19 (Mr. W. Foat).

EGG OF REDSHANK, *Totanus totanus*, found near Aylesbury 27th April, 1917 (Mr. E. Hollis).

"LIFE OF JOHN WILKES," H. Bleackley, 1917 (the Author).  
PARCEL OF POSTERS used in Bucks during the War (Recruiting, Food Economy, etc.), (Major Hooker).

POLECAT, *Putorius putorius*, killed by donor near Aylesbury Cemetery, 1892 (Mr. C. Wise).

POLL BOOKS, Aylesbury, 1848 and 1868 (Mr. W. Crouch).

PARCHMENT DEEDS relating to the Chapel at St. Leonard's, Bucks, dating from 1507 to 1638 (ditto).

17th Cent. TRADE TOKENS, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Fenny Stratford, Little Horwood, Olney, Boyne 10, 20, 65, 66, 73, 109, 111 (Mr. W. Bradbrook).

ELL MEASURE used by cloth weavers at Stewkley (Rev. R. B. Dickson).

RÊTESSE and other ROMAN REMAINS from villa at Foscott, near Buckingham (Exors. of late J. T. Harrison).

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, ENCLOSURE OF COMMON LANDS, Newport Pagnell, Stoke Mandeville, Oakley, Wing, Thornborough, Great Woolston, Drayton Parslow, Prince's Risborough, Walton (Mr. F. D. Mackinnon, K.C.).

Large Collection of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FOSSILS, 7 Museum TABLE CASES, and a number of British and Foreign MINERALS and FOSSILS from the collection of the late Dr. Lee, of Hartwell (Mrs. Philip Lee).

PART OF ROMAN QUERN, Sandpit, Stone (Dr. T. G. Parrott).

10 BUCKS ENGRAVINGS (Mr. A. E. Holloway).

"RECORDS OF 2ND BUCKS BATTALION" (Capt. I. Stewart-Liberty).

FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY, mostly British, from embankment of Boddington Hill Camp, Wendover (Capt. R. L. Graham).

BUNDLE OF POLICE WAR NOTICES (Major Otway Mayne).

IMPRESSION OF GREAT SEAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA (Mr. W. Crouch).

IRON CANNON BALL and IRON BULLET, Aylesbury (ditto).

"READING ABBEY," from the author, J. B. Harvey, M.A., M.D., 1901.

24 ENGRAVINGS, Bucks Views (Mr. A. E. Holloway).

GAS MASK (Mr. A. Wright).

ARAB BABY'S BONNET, from Sharaban, 58 miles N. of Baghdad; 2 blue glazed ARAB BUTTONS; glass EAR DROP (Mr. C. V. Daniels).

COLLECTION OF MINERALS, chiefly American (Mr. E. T. McCarthy).

IRON CANDLESTICK (Mr. J. Slade).

O. and B. L.I. CHRONICLE, 1914 (Lieut.-Colonel Mockler-Ferryman).

M.S. TRANSCRIPTS OF REGISTERS: Winslow, 1560—1715; N. Crawley, 1558—1731; Little Horwood, 1568—1837; Granborough, 1538—1695; Hillesden, 1594—1753; Newport Pagnell, 1558—1812; Buckingham, 1699—1812 (Rev. R. Ussher).

REPRINT from *Bucks Adventurer*, Leckhampstead Register, 1558—1812, with MS. additions to end of 1836 (ditto).

REPRINT, Register of Buckingham, 1561—1797 (ditto).

SCRAP BOOK containing newspaper cuttings referring to: Brackley (Northants), Steeple Claydon, Maids' Moreton, and Leckhampstead (Bucks) (ditto).

PASSPORT of Capt. S. P. Humphreys, 1802 (Mr. W. Foat).

AYLESBURY TOKEN, 1796 (Boyne ?), (Miss Grinnell).

BRONZE MEDAL and SHAREHOLDER'S TICKET for opening of Aylesbury Railway, 1839 (ditto).

PRINCESS MARY'S BOX, XMAS CARDS and PENCIL CASE (presented to all troops serving at Xmas, 1914 (Local War Museums Association).

MODEL FOR HALF-SOVEREIGN, dug up in Aylesbury (Supt. Pollard).

PLASTER CAST of Dagger of reindeer horn, with carving of reindeer as handle, original found at La Madelaine, France (Major S. S. Flower).

PLASTER CAST of barbed bone harpoon head (ditto).

Ditto, fragment of mammoth ivory with incised drawing of Mammoth, ditto (ditto).

"NOTES FROM THE ANNALS OF AKELEY," from the author (Rev. J. M. Turner).

FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN POTTERY from villa excavated at Bledlow in 1918, by the donor (Mr. C. O. Skilbeck).

12 BOXES containing fossils collected by the late Professor Sir W. H. Flower (Major S. S. Flower).

"HARTWELL LAW CATALOGUE," presentation copy from author to Admiral Smyth (ditto).

MAP OF BUCKS, by Bryant, 1825 (Mr. A. J. Whitworth).

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of Art Treasures in Imperial Museum in the East Palace, Korea (Mr. E. T. McCarthy).

M.S. TRANSCRIPTS OF REGISTERS: Lillingstone Dayrell 1588—1810; Shenley, 1653—1812; Thornborough, 1602—1812; Shalstone, 1538—1812; Stowe, 1568—1836; Chetwode, 1583—1812; Stewkley (following on from printed transcript), 1648—1796; Beachampton, 1628—1757 (Rev. R. Ussher).

17th CENT. TOKEN, "Thomas Collings in Eaton," 59 Boyne (Mr. W. Foat).

"TOOLS and WEAPONS," by Professor W. Flinders Petrie, 1917 (Lady Smyth).

Collection of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FOSSILS (Miss M. E. Tapping).

SHEARS and CLIPPERS used in Silk Mill formerly at Waddesdon (Mrs. Ewers).

Curious BRASS RULE, used in the School established by Edmd. Burke at Penn in 1796 for the sons of victims of the French Revolution (Lady Rose).

Collection of GLASS and POTTERY from Cyprus (Mr. J. C. E. Bridge).

"CHENIES CHURCH and MONUMENTS," by Adeline Duchess of Bedford, 1901 (ditto).