

ACQUISITIONS, 1939-40

A silver trade-token of 1794 is an acceptable addition to the Society's collection; it was presented by Mr. Arthur Brown. The issuers were Chambers Langston Hall & Co., and it was payable at Leighton Buzzard, Berkhamsted, or London, where this firm carried on the business of haberdashers at 46, Gutter Lane. This token, together with copper tokens which are not so scarce, was used for lace-buying, and is the one referred to by the late Mr. T. Wright in his *Romance of the Lace Pillow* (p. 204).

The Society has received a large number of deeds and muniments; some, relating to Hartwell, from Mrs. Benedict Eyre, and others from various sources through the British Records Association. Amongst those received from the Records Association is the record of a swaininote of the Forest of Bernwood for 1469. This is the only document of the kind in the Society's possession. A peculiarly fine piece of penmanship is exhibited by a terrier of the manor of Bourton, near Buckingham, with plans of the various farms included. Though undated, it clearly belongs (from internal evidence), to a period between 1703 and 1720.

A very important addition to the Muniment Room is a long run of manor rolls, minutes of courts held, plans, and deeds all relating to the manor of Hanslope; these have been kindly deposited by the courtesy of the last of his family to own the estate, Mr. R. Poore Saurin-Watts. They date from 1714 and are unusually complete. In the case of this collection there are several maps (one is about ten feet square), and terriers, some most elaborately furnished with maps of the several farms.

The Churchwarden's accounts (1766-1888) of Pitchcott, and the overseers' accounts (1815-1825) relating to the same parish were kindly presented by Mr. Dancer; they were acquired from a travelling fishmonger, who had bought them to wrap up his fish in,—a singular illustration of the danger to which local archives are subject.

SURVEYORS' NAMES

The mention of the maps and terriers above makes it seem worth while to publish a list of such surveyors' names associated with Bucks as are known. It is a scanty list and is merely offered to provide a starting-point from which it is hoped that some competent worker may, at a later date, prepare a more useful schedule. Except the two first examples all are taken from documents in the Society's Muniment Room.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Parish, &c.</i>	<i>Documen</i>	<i>Name of Surveyor</i>
1637	Amersham	map	John Halsey, of Great Gaddesden.
1646	Shalstone	Terrier	Samuel Bankes.
1693	Shenley	map	W.L.
1698	„ (Brook End)	„	„
1771	Shenley	„	G. Salmon.
1774	Linford	„	Jas. King.
1779	Hanslope	„	Jos. Perks.
nd.C1780	Edlesborough (Dagnall Hill Farm).	„	Geo. Hudson, of Woolwich.
1779	Newton Longville	„	Wm. Chapman, of Watlington.
1781	Simpson	„	J. Jennings & Son.
1801/2	Farnham Royal, Upton Stoke Poges & Wexham	„	J. Raine.
1818	Hanslope	„	Jos. King.
1828	„ Litt. Linford, & Castlethorpe	„	J. Durham, of Stratford.
1856	Lavendon, War- rington, Olney	„	J. Lenny, of Norwich.

FOSSIL TURTLE

In 1920 the writer noticed remains of a fossil turtle, exposed on the split surface of a limestone nodule, built into the wall near Hartwell House.

And as he was confident it must be rare, he asked the owners of the property if he might have it removed for the Museum.

They were quite willing that this should be done, but their tenant refused his consent.

Now, after a lapse of twenty years (during which an eye has been kept on the fossil), the property has changed hands, and Mr. E. E. Cook, the present owner, has kindly consented to it being removed and deposited in our Museum.

The specimen shows the ventral surface of the carapace which is about 14 inches long and 12-13 inches broad. The ribs and vertebral column are clearly visible. The anterior border is preserved and shows a shallow notch.

Notwithstanding its long exposure to the weather, the fossil is in quite good condition, and with it is the convex counterpart which came from it when the stone was split. The specimen has not been definitely identified, but may be a species of *Hylaeochelys*.

While there can be no doubt that it came from one of the formations quarried at Hartwell, its precise horizon cannot be stated until full investigation has been made. The Purbeck beds in the Bugle Pit have yielded turtle remains, but the fact that the surface of the nodule enclosing the present specimen has been bored by *Lithophagus* indicates that it lay in a marine formation, whereas the Purbeck Beds are of fresh-water origin.

In any case, the specimen is certainly of considerable importance, and full investigation is awaited with interest.

EDWIN HOLLIS.

[The above note is merely for record, judgment must be suspended until the precise provenience of the fossil has been confirmed, since its origin in the Hartwell Pit is not beyond doubt].

ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1939

The annual excursion took place in excellent weather on Wednesday, 12th July, and was attended by about 80 members. As the Society had not been on the Thames since 1923, they chose a river trip this year, boarding a launch at Maidenhead. The first place of call was Cliveden, and nearly an hour was passed in seeing the small remains of the first important house on the site which was designed by William Wynne for Villiers, Duke of Buckingham (1666-1677). After the Duke's death the property was bought by the Earl of Orkney, and the second Earl (who succeeded in 1737) employed Leoni for certain work, of which the octagonal temple (built for a gazebo, but now called the Chapel) is an example. The Blenheim Pavilion, at the end of the flower garden, is another; it holds a statue of the Duke of Marlborough. Wynne's house was burned down in 1795, and only the terrace-wall below the house remains.

The house was rebuilt by the next owner, Sir George Warrender, and again burned in 1849 when in the possession of the Duke of Sutherland. The present house was then rebuilt to the designs of Sir Chas. Barry (1850-51), and a very dignified effect is gained by the perfect scale of his Ionic order with an entablature.

It came into Lord Astor's possession in 1893, and he acquired the noble balustrade from the Villa Borghese, which formerly bounded the Southern forecourt of the casino in the gardens. The ends bear the dragons and crowned eagles of the Borghese family.

After leaving Cliveden the launch then went up stream above Marlow, in order that a visit might be paid to Harleyford House, by kind permission of Sir Harold Clayton, who, although not resident, was able to be there to welcome the Society and call their attention to various points of interest.

HARLEYFORD HOUSE

The Clayton who acquired Harleyford House was Sir William, the first baronet, who was son of another William of Hambleden, and nephew and heir of Sir Robert, of Marden, Surrey, the Lord Mayor of 1680. Sir William purchased the property in 1736. It was after his death that the present house was built to the designs of Sir Robert Taylor in 1755 for Sir William's second son, William, who was brother of the second, uncle of the third, and father of the fourth baronet. It is a compact example of a house in the true Palladian manner, and this explains why you go up a flight of steps to

the main floor—or piano nobile—on which are the reception rooms; they gain much by the greatly extended view they command at that height, particularly when the outlook is so superb as it is here.

The plan of the house is a square, surrounding a central staircase, with Chinese paling instead of balusters, and lighted by a top lantern. The rooms are grouped round this and inter-communicate through two doors, owing to the great thickness of the walls. At the top of the staircase a gallery, with colonnade and curiously vaulted ceilings, gives access to the bedrooms which radiate round the staircase well. This may be compared with the somewhat similar arrangement, on a larger scale, at Whaddon Hall some 45 years later in date.

Since the house was made the room to the south, which was the dining room, has been made the drawing room, and the original drawing room is now the dining room. Probably this was more convenient, but the remarkable plaster-work in the present drawing room might look more appropriate when it was the "dining parlour." Plaster-work in such very high relief is unusual in Bucks.

The many family portraits are unusually good, particularly the group in the present dining room; these and the furniture, whether of the period of the house, or the Regency period, deserved and received careful study. Other things not to be missed were an iron fire-back of the time of James I in the library—and, at the top of the staircase, a 17th century standard bushel of Great Marlow market. The fine walled garden, at some distance from the house, was visited, and it was felt that the charm of the house and perfection of its setting gave it a high place amongst Bucks houses.