

## A HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY: PART II 1897-1947

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*In Part I of his history of the Society our President traced its history for its first 50 years, from its foundation in 1847 when sixteen gentlemen met in Aylesbury and agreed to follow the example of Bedfordshire and found a society "to promote the study of architecture and antiquities". Here he follows the story up to 1897. Complete lists of all the officers of the Society from the start up to the present day are added as appendices.*

It seems doubtful whether the Society's Council realised that December 1897 was the Society's fiftieth birthday. It was in very low water. Membership had sunk to 183 and despite raising subscriptions in the previous year the total income was only £82 whilst the cost of the *Records* that year was £79. Nevertheless the next fifty years showed a steady recovery in the Society's fortunes. Membership increased, a new Museum was acquired, a full time Curator appointed, the *Records* showed new standards of scholarship, the Annual Excursion increased in importance and the strains of two world wars were overcome.

This new impetus was due to the joint secretaries who had been appointed in 1896. John Parker dealt with meetings and the annual Excursion, and was Editor of the *Records* (though called 'editorial secretary'). The learned but abrasive Alfred Cocks was in charge of the collections and clearly dominated the Council.

In 1901 the President, William Stubbs, the great constitutional historian and Bishop of Oxford, died. When he had been elected in 1890 he had made it clear that he would not attend meetings for, as the DNB put it, he 'disliked dinner parties, smoking, late hours and committees'. So another revered figure had to be found and the choice was Lord Rosebery. By then he was a great national figure, a former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, a successful writer and a resident in the county at Mentmore. He made one famous visit in 1905 and over the years supported many appeals but otherwise was not seen again before he died in

1929. The days of a 'hands-on' President were still distant. Council had hoped for 'someone who would take a personal interest in the work of the Society, and assist in its labours'.

In these years the state of the collections was repeatedly condemned; the whole display was a disgrace and the cases 'fit only for firewood'. They had been in one room in Church Street since 1867 at a rent of £6 p. a. with a caretaker who was paid £4. 10. to open it for three hours on one afternoon a week. It was well realised that what the Society needed was greater publicity, a much larger membership and a proper museum. The coronation of Edward VII provided a reason so a joint deputation of the Society and the Aylesbury Coronation Committee visited the Lord-Lieutenant for his support for an appeal to enlarge the Museum but nothing resulted from the interview owing to the views expressed by Lord Rothschild on 'the lack of interest shown by the public generally in Museums'.

In *Records IX*. Parker wrote that although the Society had been founded in 1847-8 'the complete organisation and working of the Society would date from the publication of the *Records* issued for the first time in the year 1854', and went on to propose a Jubilee Celebration for 1904. This was welcomed and the committee worked hard to organise a display in Aylesbury Town Hall. There were difficulties: 1904 proved impossible, and it was not until 6 July 1905 that Lord Rosebery opened it with a memorable address on 'The Political Aspect of Buckinghamshire' which is still worth reading and was printed in *Records IX*. 94.

As late as 1932 it appeared again in *Selected Modern English Essays* (second series) in the Oxford World Classics

The exhibition, which is fully described at IX. 91, was ambitious and not confined to the Society's own collections. It was divided into six sections historical, Antiquities, Silver & Metalwork (with church plate), Industrial & Applied Art, Fauna & Flora and Geological. Cromwell relics were lent from Chequers and Louis XVIII furniture from Hartwell. There were the Royal Bucks Militia colours paraded in Paris in 1815 and Wycombe's seventeenth-century mayoral mace. Some photos of the display survive. It drew a large attendance, undoubtedly made the Society better known, and increased its determination to find a more worthy home for its collections.

They had not long to wait. By late 1905 it became known that the Governors of the Endowed Schools - Aylesbury Grammar School - were building a new school on a green field site in Walton Road, and that their present building in Church Street would become vacant. After an inspection Council decided to bid. An awkward situation arose when St Mary's Church Council decided to do the same. The Vicar, Canon Phipps, resigned from Council. The sale was to be in two lots. No. 1 was the Church Street side of the L-shaped building containing the Headmasters House. Lot 2 was the wing facing the churchyard including the Undermasters's house and a detached church hall. At the auction on 23 March 1907 the Society bought Lot 1, the church Lot 2. (The latter was not to be acquired until 1962).

The property thus acquired dated back to the will of Henry Phillips in 1714 when he re-endowed the old Free School. Although outwardly a handsome early eighteenth-century building, time was to show that its origins and structure were much older. The large lower schoolroom was 2.5 times larger than the rented room and the dwelling had eleven rooms one of which was earmarked for a library and committee room. The purchase price was £870\* (Lot 2 fetched £700) but an additional

\*Particularly interesting to the present writer is the council's motion of thanks to Walter Hazell, a member, for refraining from bidding at the auction, which he had intended to do; he had wished to acquire it as a social club for the employees of Hazell, Watson & Viney.

400 square feet was bought from the church for £125. It was decided to spend £360 to instal a heating system and for re-decoration. With £40 lawyers fees and £34 in appeal costs the total outlay was £1430.

Council had much to do that summer. They authorized the alterations and decided that a Curator could be appointed and live in the upper rooms. They also discussed finance, a matter in which they were much helped by Arthur Liberty of The Lee Manor. This remarkable man had transformed his father's modest drapers' shop in Chesham into a business known world-wide. Now he had time to devote some his acumen and enthusiasm to the affairs of the Society; he became a generous benefactor and, as Chairman of Council, a wise leader. He had organised the appeal for the purchase fund and now he lent his 'head designer' to oversee the redecoration. He had headed the appeal with £100 and when bills had to be met when the bank balance was only £19 both he and Lady Smythe guaranteed a further £100 each.

It was beginning to be realised that running the Museum and employing a Curator would need a bigger income than the £100 which was the average at the time. The Treasurer suggested the cost of the *Records* be limited to £25 a number; every Treasurer in the Society's history has made a similar suggestion but somehow the Editor has always won the argument.

In 1906 the *Records* suffered from the death of John Parker who had compiled them for 22 years. Being responsible for the whole of volumes VI, VII & VIII. His prefaces to each set out his editorial policy as well as giving a full account of activities. He particularly wanted full descriptions of parish churches from; 1884-1906 these articles dominated the content. The three articles on High Wycombe church ran to 81 pages. At the time this was supplying a real need for the Royal Commission's *Historical Monuments*, the *Victoria County History* and Pevsner's *Buildings of England* were all in the future. There had been brief architectural details in Sheahan's *History of Buckinghamshire* (1862) and there had been Lipscomb who was not approved of; his pedigrees, manorial histories and monuments were useful but 'he supplied so meagre and so often inaccurate account of the architecture of churches'.

In the very first number of *Records* it was firmly stated that the main object of the Society should be 'the compilation of a thoroughly accurate and comprehensive County history'. Parker, fifty years later, felt the church articles were contributing to this aim.

He initiated another scheme by printing two inventories of Church Plate by a young member, J. L. Myers, who covered the deaneries of Mursley (XVII. 413) and Claydon (VIII. 10). This son of the Vicar of Swanbourne soon left to join the early excavations in Crete; later he became the first Wykeham Professor of Ancient History, Chairman of the British School at Athens, Gold Medallist of the Antiquaries and President of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Alfred Cocks had published his monumental *Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* in 1897, a work of enduring scholarship, and his many contributions to *Records* ranging from Great Marlow Church in 1866 to the Penn version of the Mummers play forty years later were always scholarly. On a lighter note his three articles which he called Contributions to a Buckinghamshire Vocabulary (VII. 61 and 284, IX. 124) where he records local dialect, then rapidly being lost, make almost compulsive reading.

Crabbling:	Noise of a pot boiling
Unmounful:	Very, ' <i>She was unmounful ugly</i> '
Drotchek:	Slut
Cribbling:	Lame ' <i>He goes proper cribbling</i> '
Clats:	Horse droppings
Mizzy-muzzy:	' <i>My poor head's all of a mizzy-muzzy</i> '

Cocks and William Bradbrook, in 1902, founded the Parish Register Society and articles stemming from this new interest began to appear in *Records*.

By late 1907 the collections had been transferred to their new home and the annual meeting was held there. Cocks, pending the appointment of a full-time Curator, was still in nominal charge of the collections and Doctor J. C. Baker had been made his assistant; he lived at Ceely House which adjoined the Museum building and where he had his practice. As Cocks lived at Frieth in the south

of the county his visits had been infrequent. Baker evidently made some minor alterations to the displays which caused Cocks to resign, on the grounds that council members had been 'interfering'. As he had been a very influential member for many years this caused a real crisis. A special General Meeting had to be called which must have been quite dramatic, Dr Baker said that 'some misunderstanding may have arisen through the Curator living so many miles away, and only making occasional visits. He (Dr Baker) had sometimes found the specimens mildewed, and had taken them out and wiped them. That was necessary with some of the things such as the Thame Register which were valuable. 'At the end of a long and lively meeting Cocks' resignation was accepted but he was appointed Honorary Curator and Scientific Adviser.

There is no doubt that Cocks was a remarkable man who did much for the Society as secretary, curator, writer, and organiser of outings and as a practical archaeologist. On his small estate he kept otters, badgers, wild cats, owls and other birds as well as a herd of Chillingham cattle. A dominating but difficult colleague. When he died in 1928 George Eland's vivid obituary (*Records* XII. 149) ends with '... like many profound scholars who seldom mingle with the world at large, Mr Cocks did not gladly tolerate opinions which differed from his own.' After 1908 he had little connection with the Society. He supervised the excavation of the Roman villa at Hambleden and the building of the museum which Lord Hambleden had erected to house the finds.

The appointment of a full-time salaried Curator took up much time in 1908. Forty-one candidates were interviewed including 'some broken-down schoolmasters, a sculptor, an insurance-agent and a chicken farmer' and eventually Edwin Hollis was appointed. His salary was to be £40 a year paid quarterly; he was to live rent and rate free, the Society paid his gas bill but not that for coal. His hours were 10-5 daily with three weeks holiday and 'a week of half-holidays'. It was to be a most successful appointment. Hollis, though a naturalist by training, was a man of wide knowledge; his mastery of local history soon became apparent and later he became an expert on Bucks Trade Tokens. In general, in his thirty years as Curator he did not

alter the general policy, common to most museums at the time, of acquiring objects of interest or importance not necessarily of Bucks provenance. The acquisitions in 1908 included:

Horseshoes	Constable's stave
Roman coin	Egyptian beads
Oyster shells with traces of colour	
Mud mask of Ptolomaic period	
Trade tokens	Malay sandals
Piano of a curious type (from Claydon)	
Two iron age skeletons (from Burn Hill)	
Stuffed long-eared owl, jack snipe, magpie and gold-necked wren.	

Membership in 1906 had risen to 200. Analysis of the list shows some changes from the early days when the clergy dominated the Society but they were still represented by the Bishops of Oxford and Reading, the Archdeacon and thirty-two incumbents. There were eight peers – Addington, Boston, BuTnham, Cottesloe, Dormer, Howe, Liverpool and Rosebery – all living in the county and most of the well-known families were represented – Astor, Carrington, Cripps, Disraeli, Gilbey, Lee, Liberty, Rothschild, (W.H.) Smith, Verney and Wethered. It is clear that it was an upper-class membership and in some ways this was an advantage for as long as each annual meeting obstinately refused to raise the ten shillings subscription, many members were willing to respond to frequent appeals for particular ventures. Lady Smythe was outstandingly generous throughout the early years of the century.

One unchanging feature was the Annual Excursion, which usually included the Annual Meeting; after 1907 the latter was held separately at the Museum but the Excursion grew in size, now helped by motor transport. 1913 was perhaps a climax. A very detailed ten page pamphlet was given to members waiting at Aylesbury station for the arrival of the Marylebone train at 9.35 where 'MOTOR OBSERVATION CARS WILL BE WAITING'.

Another coach met members at Chedington and all converged on Ivinghoe church at 11. 15; fifty minutes were allotted there followed by thirty at Edlesborough church and at 12. 20 the 'County boundary was crossed and Bedfordshire entered'. Eaton Bray church, Totternhoe Castle, Maiden

Bower and Dunstable Priory followed with a late lunch at the Town Hall (Charge 3/- including liquid refreshment). They then visited Tilsforth church and the day finished after seeing the Market Cross and church at Leighton Buzzard with tea at the Albion hotel, and a return to Aylesbury in time for the 5.45 London train. One of the Society's most learned members, F. G. Gurney wrote the guide for the day; his remarks on Ivinghoe church alone ran to 5000 words; he also drew and reproduced a beautifully-lettered map of the country to be covered.

In 1907 occurs the first mention of joint action with other Conservation organisations when Council joined the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the National Trust to oppose the proposed addition of a vestry to the untouched Norman church at Stewkley; they were successful.

In 1909 another appeal was launched for additional cases in the museum and a *Conversazione* was held at which three papers were read – Doctor James Berry on 'Some Greek Temples in Sicily', Mrs Berry on 'The Balkan States' and C. E. Keyser on 'Mural paintings in Little Hampden church'. The last was an important pioneer contribution to a new subject reprinted in *Records IX*. 415. Both Keyser and Berry (Later Sir James) were to be munificent patrons of digs in the county over the next thirty years.

Volume IX also included Cocks' report on his excavation at Burn Hill, Hartwell, a good example of his meticulous work. Earlier he had reported to a Council meeting that at Ivinghoe 'excavations were being carried out by peripatetic and alien investigators', but nothing more is heard of this invasion. This volume was the largest ever published for in addition to the 468 pages was added a 372 page Annual Index of Archaeological Papers.

The Editor who succeeded Parker was W. Niven. He was an architect and not a mediaevalist so there was a subtle shift of emphasis in the contents at least into the seventeenth-century; the report of the discovery of a Thornhill drawing of Wotton House would not have occurred under his predecessors. He even ventured nervously and sarcastically into the eighteenth century in what today

is an extraordinary article 'Stowe and its "Gardens"' of which one extract will suffice (X. 51).

'Imitation ruins were much in vogue in the 18th century, and were set up, often at great expense, all over the country. Worse than their puerility was the fact they often included genuine fragments, the spoil of ancient buildings robbed to gratify the vanity of someone who would be in the fashion and 'have a taste' . . . why should temples to Venus, Bacchus or even Ancient Virtue be erected in an English park?'

An article on the excavations at Norbury Camp, Little Horwood (X. 106) introduces two names of significance, both medical men. Sir James Berry, senior surgeon at the Royal Free hospital was a benefactor who both conducted and financed the Norbury Dig but also the more important Iron-age fort at Danesborough, Wavendon (XI. 363). The other medical man was William Bradbrook, a GP at Bletchley, who had succeeded Cocks as Secretary and for the next twenty-two years was a key figure; like his two long-serving predecessors, Lowndes and Parker. He 'ran' the Society, organising the Excursion, and contributing to the *Records* as well as writing meticulous (and readable) minutes.

At the annual meeting in 1911 the Treasurer reported a deficit of £147 on the year when income had only been £270. Once again there was a lively debate about the subscription and on this occasion it was Coningsby Disraeli, nephew of the Prime Minister and heir to Hughenden, who was becoming an increasingly forceful member of Council, who opposed any change and urged an increase in members. It was not for another thirty years and two World Wars before the ten shillings subscription was finally raised.

When the war came in 1914 the Society went into virtual hibernation. The Government took over the new Grammar School for a hospital and the School returned to its old home for a year paying fifty shillings a month for the ground floor. The Curator joined the Army and became a musketry instructor for which, as a noted shot, he was well equipped. He was allowed a third of his salary. No outings and only an occasional Council meeting was held. In 1916 subscriptions were sus-

pending 'for the duration'. Despite this the *Records* continued; an issue now cost £40 and this was met by an appeal. A typical war scare occurred when there were reports that Germans were tunnelling in the Chilterns – the "tunnels" turned out to be Neolithic.

The Society's greatest loss in the war had been the death of Sir Arthur Liberty. In his will he left funds to found a trust for the benefit of the Society; up to 1942 its income was mainly used to augment the Curator's salary.

To celebrate the end of the war and in a drive to increase a much-depleted membership a 'Museum Handbook' was issued, which described the contents and layout in some detail and gave information about the Society. The attractive cover carried a drawing of Church Street by the then little-known architect Clough Williams-Ellis.

The first post-war *Records* (XI. 1) contained one significant article 'A Meeting-Place of the Early Quakers in Buckinghamshire' which marks the first appearance of George Eland. He describes the oldest house in Weston Turville, once a Meeting-House, then the Black Lion Inn which was soon to become his own home. His architectural descriptions and his researches into early Quaker history are typical of his gifts which were to be put to such good use when, in 1920, on Niven's death, he became Editor.

Eland was one of the most important figures in the Society's history. For such a learned man his occupation – as Audit Officer for London Transport – was perhaps unexpected. But in his twenty-five years as Editor he acquired a remarkable knowledge of the County much of it by walking every weekend, always in black City clothes and very stout boots. With his sallow, hawk-like features and waspish tongue he was the epitome of the traditional antiquary. He was admired in many of the great houses even if butlers sent him round to the trademen's entrance. Two of his books, on the muniments at Doddershall and at Shardeloes, began with his unannounced appearance at the front door. Under his guidance the standard of scholarship in contributions to the *Records* rose appreciably and some papers he published were of first-rate importance. With volume

XIII he persuaded the Council to enlarge the page size from demy to royal octavo and to increase the type size.

Eland was not a mediaevalist and the general balance of the *Records* became centered more on the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. However the past was not overlooked and three major excavations by members were recorded – Bulstrode Camp (Cyril Fox XI. 283), Danesborough Camp (James Berry XI. 313), the Romano-British Kiln at Hedgerley (XIII. 191) and the Saunderton Roman Villa (D. Ashcroft XIII. 374). In these inter-war years new subjects began to appear such as barns, enclosures, farm accounts and, especially, wall paintings which came from the young Clive Rouse soon to be a regular contributor and Assistant Editor, who first appears describing the paintings at Chalfont St. Giles church (XII. 108) and 'dooms' at Denham and Winslow (XIII. 138). E. W. Tristran, the great restorer deals with the paintings at Little Missenden (XII. 308) and F. W. Reader finds many in domestic buildings (XII. 225). This last article has some fine colour plates. Eland accepted these very unwillingly apparently thinking colour unworthy of a learned journal.

Other important articles in this period were Bradbrook on Royal Arms in Bucks churches (XI. 334), the discovery of the building accounts for Winslow Hall (XI. 406), G. R. Crouch's paper on the Building of County Hall (XII. 56), Hollis on Bucks Trade Tokens (XII. 324) and the Annual Progress of New College to visit their properties 1659–75. (XIII. 77).

In 1920 there was a significant event; the County Council agreed to pay £100 p.a. for the Curator to lecture to visiting school parties and it was agreed that teachers could use the Library at no cost. The Council was to have an increasing influence in the years to come, culminating in the leasing of the whole Museum in 1957.

At the great Stowe sale in 1921 Eland was anxious to acquire some of the vast store of papers and he was authorised to spend £20 but they went, for a far greater sum, to form one of the glories of the Huntingdon Museum in California.

Next year another venture was more success-

ful. Jointly with the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society there was published all the Bucks and Beds entries on the Pipe Rolls 1189–1199. The Society's share of the cost was £80. The authors were G. H. Fowler, a very distinguished member and M. W. Hughes.

Throughout the twenties finances were a worry. Membership had shrunk from 236 in 1913 to 180 after the war. There were frequent appeals for new members. Council purchased 70 lantern slides for members to give lectures outside Aylesbury. Every attempt to raise the subscription from 10/- to a guinea was defeated; this happened in 1929 when even the life subscription was allowed to remain at £7. 10. 0. However, the resignation of a Treasurer who never attended meetings helped to improve matters and funds were available to introduce electricity into the Museum shortly followed by a telephone which was only agreed at Council 'by a majority'.

Outings continued on the traditional pattern and in 1928 an important lecture was organised when the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Charles Peers, spoke on the Antiquities of Bucks. Lord Rosebery died in 1929; he had not attended a single meeting since 1905 but had usually subscribed to the many special appeals. He was a remote but revered figure in the county.

There was some delay in finding a successor and it was not until 1931 that Doctor M. R. James was installed. Living in the county as Provost of Eton and a very distinguished mediaevalist it was a most suitable choice. The new president not only welcomed members on a visit to Eton but also gave a notable lecture on 'The Iconography of Bucks' at Little Missenden House in 1932, (printed in *Records* XII. 281).

Through gifts and occasional purchases the Society had been acquiring an increasing flood of documents deeds, and court rolls and the problem of housing them was becoming acute. Following the 1924 Act the Society had become the official guardian appointed by the Master of the Rolls. Dr James chaired a meeting at Eton supported by the Lord Lieutenant, at which it was proposed to build a muniment room, damp- and fire-proof, below the small yard at the back of the Museum. To

achieve this an appeal was started and an exhibition of documents held in the Museum. Apart from Manorial Rolls there were 13,000 other deeds etc. to house. E. A. L. Martyn, a High Wycombe architect, was now Secretary and organised the building operation. It was decided to 'proceed with an Appeal in spite of the present being an unfavorable time for collecting money' (September 1932).

The Appeal was successful; with a generous grant from the County Council the required £1900 was raised and on 9 June 1934 Coningsby Disraeli, as Chairman, introduced the Master of the Rolls, Lord Hanworth, who opened the room and gave an address which was later printed in *Records* (XIII. 1).

Disraeli had been a vigorous Chairman. It was he who suggested that the Society should erect a memorial tablet to George Lipscomb, the county historian (who had died in 1847) to be placed in Quainton church. Lipscomb had been born in the village where his father was the local doctor. On 10 October 1929 the tablet was unveiled and dedicated. It is on the north chancel wall.

Membership had steadily increased in the late 'twenties and by 1933 was over 450 but was still almost exclusively middle class, with the gentry still very well represented. For instance at a Council meeting 26 July 1933 (at which Clive Rouse was appointed Assistant Editor) the eighteen new members elected included Lord Chesham (Latimer House), Major Mackenzie (Fawley Court), J. C. Butterwick (Eton College), C. H. Figg (Little Hampden), Lady Pigott-Brown (Doddershall), Christopher Hohler and Lady de l'Isle (Long Crendon Manor). One change was significant; by now the number of clergy members who had once dominated the Society had shrunk to thirty out of a total membership in 1932 of 415.

Doctor James died in 1936. Possibly remembering Lord Rosebery's twenty-eight years in office '... there was a general feeling that the office should be held for shorter terms than had been the case in the past ...' So a new rule was passed limiting the office to three years. Lord Cottesloe, the Lord Lieutenant, was elected and served his three years after which the rule apparently lapsed.

An initiative which was to have great significance began late in 1936 John Jenkins, a member, asked to be allowed to start a *Records* branch which was agreed and a sub-committee was appointed to run it which included the historian Arthur Bryant. It got to work with surprising speed and in 1937 published its first volume the *Quaker Minute Book 1669-90*. This was a work of great value which quickly sold out and became a collectors' piece, made more special by being printed by the great typographer and artist Eric Gill at his press at Pigotts, high up in the Chilterns near Naphill. The next five volumes in their familiar yellow cloth binding with blue lettering followed over the years.

By 1947 the branch had become sufficiently successful to demand independence which was amicably agreed so the seventh volume, *Episcopal Visitation Book of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1662* was published by the new Bucks Record Society. The parent Society can be proud of begetting such a successful and important offspring now, (1997), fifty years later, about to publish its fiftieth volume.

The years before 1940 were, in many ways, the golden years of the Society. The membership numbers were buoyant, the ten shillings subscription adequate, the annual meeting and outing well attended and the contents of the *Records* at a high level. It is not surprising that Council minutes showed little signs of controversy. Much of this was due to the wise guidance of Coningsby Disraeli. After his death in 1936 Eland's obituary notice (XIII. 249) records: '... He interested himself in every detail of our administration, and for many years there was never an annual excursion planned, or a number of *The Records* published, without having been first discussed in his smoking-room or on the terrace at Hughenden'. The improved format of *The Records* was the direct result of the Chairman's firmness opposed to the 'Editor's inferior taste and adherence to tradition.'

Many generous members continued to join. Those elected in July 1937 included Lord Hambleden, Sir John Reith (of the BBC), the Earl of Moreton, Viscount Kemsley and Doctor Audrey Baker now (1997) the senior member. The dig at Saunderton of the Roman Villa was organised by

an Excavations committee and provides an example of the response to special appeals. The expenditure is recorded at XIII. 378 and is of interest (see overleaf).

Colonel Serocold, who had begun the dig the previous year headed the appeal with ten pounds which with the donations of some forty other members and a collecting box on the site raised £78. 18. 1; the small deficit was soon met by further donations.

Wages (3½ weeks)	27.	3.	4
Fee to Supervisor	11.	18.	0
Tools and equipment	5.	18.	4
Rent of site	5.	0.	0
Portable hut	5.	2.	0
Insurance	1.	14.	6
Photography	2.	16.	0
Filling in trenches	18.	3.	0
Appeal circulars	12.	18.	10
Miscellaneous	1.	15.	0
	£92.	9.	0

Ever since the first visit in 1852 the Annual Excursion had been a highlight for members and the use of a motorcoach meant that sites outside Bucks could be reached. – North Oxfordshire in 1936, Berkshire in 1937. Next year it was churches in the north of the county with Chicheley Hall to finish. On 12 July there was the last outing for eight years when the coach delivered eighty members to a launch at Maidenhead from which landings were made to see both Cliveden and Harleyford Manor.

It was perhaps significant that in 1938, a few months before 'Munich' that Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, declined to be made a Vice-President.

That this was the end of an era is perhaps epitomised in an obituary note on Henry Yates Thompson of Oving House, the great collector of illuminated MSS '... his carriage and pair, for he never sank to the use of a motor-car, were sometimes seen outside the Museum, which he visited from time to time'.

There is little to record of the war years. Sparsely-attended meetings continued and the Mu-

seum remained open. Edwin Hollis died in 1941. His widow continued to live on the first floor and Cicely Baker became temporary Curator. She was the daughter of Doctor Baker and, conveniently lived next door at Ceely House. As a trained archivist she served the Society well in a variety of roles over the next forty years.

Visitors were still some three thousand a year but acquisitions were at a low ebb. After Martyn the secretary was called up R. Wilson became temporary secretary. Clive Rouse left to join the RAF where, as a Flight-Lieutenant, he worked on aerial photographic interpretation. Council's only apparent contribution to the war effort was to decide to discontinue duplicating minutes to members. They also declined to host an Exhibition of Edible Fungi because of 'misgivings'.

In 1944 Miss Baker offered to sell Ceely house to the Society; the attractions of this offer were obvious but it could hardly have come at a more difficult time. As in 1918 the war had meant a declining membership and a reduced income so it was with some courage that Council decided to find the purchase price of £4,500. There was the inevitable appeal but, helped by loans from Colonel Serocold and a mortgage the purchase was made. At the time, although future value to the Museum were clearly seen, it was looked on as an investment and was let to various tenants for some years to come.

Lord Cottesloe had been succeeded as President by Lord Justice McKinnon, a distinguished Judge and antiquary who died in 1946. Sir Alan Barlow was elected to follow him. A man of few but pregnant words, he was Second Secretary at the Treasury and it was his wise guidance that helped the Society to surmount the many problems of the post-war years. In 1947 he suggested the formation of a Natural History Section which his wife Nora (born a Darwin) successfully started.

To celebrate the Centenary in 1947 a number of events were planned but petrol rationing made outings difficult. However, there was a service in Quainton Church to mark the centenary of Lipscomb's death and Claydon House was visited.

The main Centenary event was a lecture by the ornithologist James Fisher on the birds of St



Kilda. The meeting had to be transferred to a larger hall to accommodate the hundred and fifty members who attended. The new Curator was introduced; he was R. C. Sansome who had come from the Peterborough Museum.

But the most important event was the Centenary number of the records (XV. 1) George Eland had left the county and Clive Rouse had become Editor and was assisted by Michael Fletcher and the writer (who became responsible for production and distribution). The format was enlarged and for the first time the Bucks swan, in three colours appeared on the cover; it had been drawn by the Editor and has continued to be the Society's symbol ever since. It opened with an important article by H. M. Colvin on the architecture of Marlow and was followed by a valuable pioneering piece on

Renaissance Monuments in Bucks churches by Catherine Esdaile which, although it contained many errors nevertheless opened up what was then a new subject of interest. Two authoritative but overlapping articles on Buckinghamshire Birds perhaps upset the balance but it was a worthy contribution to the Centenary. The number ended, uniquely, with advertisements from fourteen firms all but one of which had been established in the County before 1847.

This survey of fifty years leaves the Society in good heart with a greatly-increased membership and a new generation of energetic officers. The serious problems soon to appear were not yet apparent. But the history of the last fifty years must be left to another hand.

## APPENDIX

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1847 - 1997

#### PRESIDENTS

1848	WILBERFORCE Samuel (1805-1873). Bishop of Oxford 1843-69; of Winchester 1869-73.	1930	JAMES, Montague Rhodes, OM, FBA, FSA (1862-1936) Biblical Scholar, palaeographer. Provost of Kings College Cambridge 1905, Provost of Eton 1918. Author of <i>Ghost Stories of an Antiquary</i> (1904) and 'The Iconography of Bucks' <i>Records XII Obit. XII</i> , 241.
1869	MACKARNESS, John Fielder (1820-1889). Bishop of Oxford 1870-88). The bizarre incident regarding his Presidency is recorded in <i>Records V</i> , 342 and <i>XXX</i> , 174	1937	FREMANTLE, Thomas Francis, 3rd Baron Cottesloe, CB, TD (1862-1956). Lord Lieutenant of Bucks 1923-54. <i>Obit. XVI</i> , 122.
1884	TEMPLE - NUGENT - BRYDGES - CHANDOS - GRENVILLE, Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, GCSI, PC, DCL (1823-1889). MP for Buckingham 1846-57 President of the Council 1866-7, Minister for the Colonies 1867-8, Governor of Madras 1875-80, Lord Lieutenant 1868-89. <i>Obit. VI</i> , 263.	1940	MACKINNON, Frank Douglas, PC, FSA (1871-1946). KC 1914. Judge of Kings Bench 1924, Knight Bachelor 1924, Court of Appeal 1937. Author of <i>On Circuit</i> (1941). Chairman of Bucks Quarter Sessions. <i>Obit. XIV</i> , 370.
1890	STUBBS, (1825-1901). Regius Professor of History Oxford 1866, Bishop of Chester 1884, Bishop of Oxford 1888-1901. <i>Obit. VIII</i> , 408.	1946	BARLOW, Sir Alan, 2nd Baronet, GCB, FSA (1881-1868), Second Secretary at Treasury. President Oriental Ceramic Society. <i>Obit. XVIII</i> , 180.
1901	PRIMROSE, Archibald, 3rd Earl of Rosebery, KG, KT, FRS, FSA (1847-1929). First Chairman of London County Council 1889, Foreign Secretary 1892-94, Prime Minister 1894-5. <i>Obit. XII</i> , 207.	1963	FREMANTLE, John Wargrave, 4th Baron Cottesloe, CBE, TD, DL (1900-1994). President National Rifle Association, Leander Club and Chairman Arts Council 1960-67. <i>Obit. XXXV</i> , 90.
		1969	ROUSE, Edward Clive, MBE, D.Litt, Hon.MA (Oxford), FSA (1901-1997). Presi-

- dent Royal Archaeological Institute 1969-72. *Obit*, this Vol
- 1979 VINEY, Elliott Merriam, DSO, MBE, TD, DL, FSA (B.1913). Printer, High Sheriff 1964.
- VICE-PRESIDENTS*
- 1847-1854 HILL, Revd Justly, Archdeacon of Buckingham.
- 1847-1849 FRANKLAND-RUSSELL, Sir Robert, (1784-1849), 7th Bart. of Chequers Court.
- 1847-1886 DUPRÉ, Caledon George (1803-1886), of Wilton Park, MP for Bucks 1839-1879. Colonel, the Life Guards.
- 1847-1879 CLAYTON, Richard Rice (1797-1879), of Hedgerley Park, High Sheriff 1838, MP Aylesbury 1841-47.
- 1847-1865 BARKER, Raymond, of Hambleden.
- 1848-1864 LOWNDES, William (1807-1864), of The Bury, Chesham. High Sheriff 1848.
- 1848-1883 BERNARD, Sir Thomas Tyringham (1781-1883), 6th Bart of Nether Winchendon. High Sheriff 1816, MP Aylesbury 1857-68.
- 1849-1856 AUBREY, Sir Thomas (1781-1856), 7th Bart of Oving House, High Sheriff 1815, Chairman Quarter Sessions 1831-51.
- 1849-1884 CHANDOS, Marquess of (1823-1889), GCSI. Succeeded as 3rd Duke of Buckingham 1861. Governor of Madras 1875-80. Lord Lieutenant 1868-89. PRESIDENT 1884-89.
- 1849-1868 HANMER, Colonel Henry (1789-1868), of Stock Grove. High Sheriff 1854.
- 1849-1890 PAUNCEFORT-DUNCOMBE, Philip (1818-1890) of Great Brickhill Manor. Created Bart 1859, High Sheriff 1855.
- 1853-1892 BICKERSTETH, Edward (1814-1892) Vicar Penn Street 1848, Vicar Aylesbury and Archdeacon of Buckingham 1853. Dean of Lichfield 1876.
- 1855-1856 CAMERON, Donald of Hughenden.
- 1855-1894 VERNEY, Sir Harry (1801-1894, 2nd Bart of Claydon House. Born Calvert; changed name to Verney on inheriting the Claydon estates 1827. MP Buckingham 1832-41 and 1880-85.
- 1859-1866 LEE, Doctor John, (1783-1866) QC, FRS, of Hartwell House. Born Fiott; changed name to Lee on inheriting the Hartwell estates 1815. Astronomer, Egyptologist.
- 1859-1865 SMYTHE, Admiral William (1788-1865), FRS, of Stone. Navigator, Astronomer and Antiquary. Author of *Survey of the Mediterranean* and *Aedes Harwellianae*.
- 1860-1889 HUBBARD, John Gellibrand (1805-1889) of Addington Manor. Created Lord Addington 1887. Russia merchant, MP Buckingham 1858-68 and City of London 1874-87. Governor of the Bank of England.
- 1862-1865 PIGOTT, George (1796-1865) of Doddershall Park. He was "... remarkable for the manly freedom and vigour with which he delivered his opinions. He was a steady supporter of Conservative principles."
- 1866-1881 DISRAELI, Benjamin (1804-1881), KG, PC, of Hughenden Manor. Created Earl of Beaconsfield 1876. MP Bucks 1847-76. Prime Minister 1868 and 1874-80.
- 1866-1897 HIBBERT, Frederick (1824-1897) of Chalfont Park.
- 1866-1886 GOODALL, Revd J. (1800-1886) of Dinton Hall.
- 1868-1884 GOODFORD, Revd Charles (1812-1884). Headmaster Eton 1854, Provost 1862.
- 1874-1905 LOWNDES, William (1834-1905) of the Bury, Chesham.
- 1876-1880 PUREY-CUST, Revd Arthur (1828-1916). Archdeacon of Buckingham 1875, Dean of York 1880.
- 1880-1908 RANDALL, Revd James (d.1922), Archdeacon Buckingham 1880-85, Bishop of Reading 1889-1908.
- 1881-1883 ROSE, Sir Philip (1816-1883) of Rayners, Penn. High Sheriff 1878. Created Bart 1874. Treasurer of County Courts. Close friend of Disraeli.
- 1881 WILSON, Sir Samuel, of Hughenden.
- 1883-1916 LAWSON, Edward Levi (1833-1916), of Hall Barn. Created Bart 1892, Lord Burnham 1903. Proprietor of the Daily Telegraph, High Sheriff 1886.
- 1883-1891 LOWNDES, Revd Charles (1808-1891), Rector of Hartwell 1855-91. The driving force of the Society for its first forty years, SECRETARY 1856-84.
- 1884-1889 MACKARNESS, Revd John (1820-1889). Bishop of Oxford 1870-88. PRESIDENT 1879-84.
- 1885-1918 FREMANTLE, Hon. Thomas Francis

- (1830-1918) of Swanbourne House. Succeeded as 2nd Lord Cottesloe 1890. MP Buckingham 1876-85 Chairman Quarter Sessions Chairman County Council 1897. Vice Lieutenant.
- 1888-1907 CHESHAM, Charles Cavendish, 3rd Baron (1850-1907), KCB, PC, of Latimer House. Major-General. His statue stands in front of County Hall.
- 1890-1920 WARRE, Revd Edmond (1837-1920). Headmaster Eton 1884-1905, Provost 1909-18.
- 1890-1915 ADDINGTON Egerton Hubbard, 2nd Baron (1842-1915) of Addington Manor. MP Buckingham 1874-80 and North Bucks 1886-9.
- 1892-1917 ROTHSCHIID, Leopold de (1845-1917). CVO, DL, of Ascott, Wing.
- 1894-1898 ROTHSCHILD, Baron Ferdinand de (1839-1898) of Waddesdon Manor. MP Aylesbury 1885-98, High Sheriff 1883.
- 1895 SEEBOHM, Henry (1832-95). Geographer and Ornithologist. He died three months after his election.
- 1895-1908 EVANS, Sir John (1823-1908), KCB, FRS, D.Litt. of Britwell Court, Burnham. At various times he was president of Society of Antiquaries, Society of Arts, Royal Numismatic Society, Anthropological Association and the Papermakers Association. Trustee British Museum.
- 1896-1900 PIGOTT, Revd Randall (1837-1900) of Grendon Hall. Rector of Grendon Underwood 1861-99. SECRETARY 1884-96.
- 1896-1910 BOURKE, Revd Cecil (1842-1910) of Hill House, Taplow. Archdeacon of Buckingham 1895-1910.
- 1899-1933 DISRAELI, Coningsby (1867-1933). DL, of Hughenden Manor. Nephew and heir of Lord Beaconsfield. High Sheriff 1931. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1917-33.
- 1899-1918 GOODALL, Colonel L. (1842-1918) DL, of Dinton Hall.
- 1900-1931 BOSTON, George Irby, 6th Baron (1860-1941) FSA, of Hedsor Lodge.
- 1900-1928 COCKS, Arthur Heneage (1864-1928) FSA, of Skirmett. SECRETARY AND CUSTODIAN 1896-1908. Author of *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire*.
- 1900-1917 LIBERTY, Arthur Lasenby (1843-1917), DL, of the Lee Manor. Founder of Liberty & Son. Knighted 1913. Founder of the Liberty Trust. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN 1909-17.
- 1901-1906 SMYTHE, General Sir Henry (1826-1906), KCMG, of John's Lodge, Stone. Governor of Malta 1890-3.
- 1901-1911 PAGET, Revd Francis (1851-1911). Dean of Christ Church. Bishop of Oxford 1901-11.
- 1901-1904 PAYNE, Edward (1844-1904), Native of High Wycombe (Hon. Recorder 1883). Fellow University College, Oxford.
- 1906-1907 RUTLAND, James (1827-1907) of Taplow. Archaeologist.
- 1907-1928 SMITH, Hon. William (1868-1928) of Greenlands, Hambleden. Succeeded as 2nd Viscount Hambleden 1913. Chairman W.H.Smith & Son. Financed the excavations of the Hambleden Roman Villa.
- 1907-1925 ELLIMAN, James (d.1925) of Slough.
- 1907-1932 SMYTHE, Lady Helen, of St John's Lodge, Stone. Widow of Sir Henry Smythe. A generous benefactor to the Society
- 1910-1937 SHAW, Revd Edward (1860-1937), Vicar High Wycombe 1895. Archdeacon of Buckingham 1910. First Suffragan Bishop of Buckingham 1913-20, Archdeacon of Oxford 1920-37.
- 1911-1940 BERRY, James (1860-1946) FRCS, DCL, FSA, of Wimpole Street. Senior Surgeon Royal Free Hospital. Knighted 1925. Financed excavations of Norbury Camp and Danesborough
- 1911-1919 GORE, Revd Charles (1853-1932). Successively Bishop of Worcester, Birmingham and (1911-19) Oxford.
- 1919-1925 LIBERTY, Lady (Emma) (1843-1920). Widow of Sir Arthur Liberty
- 1919-1925 BURGE, Revd Hubert (1862-1925). Headmaster of Winchester. Bishop of Southwell, Bishop of Oxford 1919-25.
- 1928-1956 COTTESLOE, Thomas Fremantle, 3rd Lord (1862-1956), CB, TD, of the Old House, Swanbourne. Chairman Quarter Sessions 1924-37. Lord Lieutenant 1923-54. PRESIDENT 1937-40.
- 1932-1933 BURNHAM, Harry Levy-Lawson, 1st Viscount (1862-1933), of Hall Barn. Chief Proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*.
- 1932-1937 STRONG, Revd Thomas (1861-1944), Dean of Christ Church, 1901, Bishop of Ripon 1920, Bishop of Oxford 1925-37.

- 1932-1934 DEVONPORT, Hudson Kearley (1856-1934) PC, of Whittington, Medmenham. Chairman Port of London Authority. Created Baronet 1908, Viscount 1919.
- 1937-1954 KIRK, Revd Kenneth (1886-1955), Bishop of Oxford 1937-54. Author of *Church Dedications of the Oxford Diocese*.
- 1937-1940 MACKINNON, Sir Frank (1871-1946), KC, PC, of Holloways Farm, Beaconsfield. Called to Bar 1904, High Court Judge 1924, Court of Appeal 1937, Chairman of Quarter Sessions 1937-46. Author of *On Circuit*, PRESIDENT 1940-46.
- 1937-1951 FORSDYKE, Sir John (1883-1979) KCB, FSA, of Asheridge, Chesham. Director British Museum 1936.
- 1941-1946 BARLOW, Sir Alan (1881-1968) GCB, KBE, FSA, of Boswells, Wendover. Second Secretary at the Treasury 1938-48. President Oriental Ceramic Society. PRESIDENT 1946-63.
- 1941-1948 HAMBLEDEN, William Smith, 3rd Viscount (1903-1948) of Hambleden Manor. Chairman W.H.Smith & Son.
- 1941-1955 REITH, Sir John (1889-1971), KT, GCVO, GBE, PC, of Harrias, Beaconsfield. Director BBC 1922-38. Created Baron Reith of Stonehaven 1940.
- 1945-1951 SEROCOLD, Colonel Oswald (1865-1951) CMG, FSA, DL, of Taplow Hill. President Historical Association. Excavated the Saunderton Villa.
- 1946-1948 MARTEN, Sir Henry (1872-1948) KCVO. Provost of Eton 1945-8
- 1946-1952 MACKENZIE, Major William (1864-1952) DL, FSA, of Fawley Court.
- 1946-1951 WICKHAM, A. K. (d.1951) FSA. Eton Master
- 1947-1971 ELAND, George (1880-1971) FSA, of Weston Turville and latterly at Great Canfield, Essex. Audit Officer of London Transport. Edited the *Purefoy Letters* and author of *The Chilterns and the Vale*, *Shardeloes Papers* and other works. EDITOR 1920-46.
- 1948-1967 BALE, Canon Ronald (1890-1967) FSA, Vicar successively of Adstock, Brill, Buckingham and Witney. Chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for thirty-seven years. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1936-57
- 1951-1964 PIGOTT-BROWN, Lady (Ivy) (1888-1964) of Doddershall Park.
- 1951-1952 STEWART-LIBERTY, Captain Ivor (1887-1952) MC, DL, of The Lee Manor. Nephew of Sir Arthur Liberty. High Sheriff 1922.
- 1952-1970 TRELAWNT-IRVING, Charles (1879-1970) of Wellwick Manor, Wendover.
- 1952-1966 WOODMAN, A. Vere (1884-1966) FSA, of Wing.
- 1952-1966 STEWART-LIBERTY, Mrs (Evelyn) (1890-1966)
- 1952-1954 SKILBECK, Clement Oswald (1865-1954) FSA, of Bledlow, Ecclesiastical artist and designer.
- 1955-1969 AUBREY-FLETCHER, Sir Henry, 6th Bart (1887-1969), CVO, DSO, of Chilton House, High Sheriff 1925. Lord Lieutenant 1954-61. Lieutenant Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms (The Bodyguard). Author of *History of the Foot Guards* and, as 'Henry Wade', of numerous detective stories.
- 1955-1963 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, John Hampden Mercer-Menderson, 8th Earl (1906-1963) of Great Hampden. Deputy Speaker House of Lords.
- 1959-1973 HAY, Revd Robert (1884-1973) vicar of Taplow 1939, Archdeacon Buckingham 1944-57, Bishop of Buckingham 1944-60.
- 1960-1975 GRIMES, William (1905-1988) CBE, D.Litt, FSA. Director Institute of Archaeology 1956-73.
- 1960-1971 SAVAGE, Revd Gordon (1915-1990). Archdeacon of Buckingham 1957-60, Bishop of Buckingham 1960-4, Bishop of Southwell 1964-70.
- 1961-1969 FLOYD, Sir Henry, 5th Bart (1899-1969) CB, CBE, of Chearsley Hill House. Chief of Staff 8th Army 1944. Lord Lieutenant 1961-9.
- 1961-1969 ROUSE, E. Clive (1901-1907) MBE, D.Litt, FSA, of Gerrards Cross. President Royal Archaeological Institute 1969-72 ASSISTANT EDITOR 1933-47, EDITOR 1947-69. PRESIDENT 1969-79.
- 1961-1974 GUILLUM SCOTT, Sir John (1910-1983) TD, DCL, of Drayton Beauchamp. Secretary Church Assembly and General Synod of Church of England 1948-79.
- 1962-1966 WATSON, Colonel Frank (1893-1966) CB, MC, DL, of Glebe House, Dinton.

- High Sheriff 1947.
- 1969–1994 COTTESLOE, John Fremantle, 4th Baron (1900–1994), GBE, TD, of the Old House, Swanbourne, Chairman Arts Council 1960–65. PRESIDENT 1963–69.
- 1969–1989 BARLOW, Lady (Nora) (1884–1989). Widow of Sir Alan Barlow, Founder of the Natural History Section.
- 1970–1988 YOUNG, Major John (1910–1988) of Thornton Hall. Lord Lieutenant 1969–84.
- 1971–1980 BAKER, Miss Cicely (1900–1980) FSA, of Bierton. CUSTODIAN 1940–6, ARCHIVIST 1946–74. HONORARY MEMBER.
- 1974–1988 FRANCIS, Sir Frank (1901–1988) KCB, FSA FMA, of Nether Winchendon, Director British Museum 1959–68. President Library Association 1965.
- 1974–1975 MARKHAM, Sir Frank (1897–1975) of Leighton Buzzard. MP for North Bucks 1951–64. Author of *History of Milton Keynes and District*.
- 1974–1984 HEAD, Jack (1898–1984), MBE, FSA, of Prestwood Author of *Early Man in Buckinghamshire*. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1957–61.
- 1976 MEAD, Professor William (B.1915) of Aston Clinton. Professor of Geography, London University. President Institute of Geographers.
- 1977–1992 HUME, Thomas (1917–1992) CBE, FSA, Curator Bucks County Museum 1952–60, Director City of Liverpool Museums 1960–72, Director Museum of London 1970–78.
- 1978–1986 WAILES, Rex (1901–1986) OBE, of Beaconsfield. Industrial Archaeological Consultant to Ministry of Works 1963–71. Author of *The English Windmill*.
- 1981–1985 ELVEY, Gerald (1902–1985) FSA, of Chalfont St Giles, EDITOR 1970–79.
- 1981 WRIGHT, Sir Denis (B.1911) GCMG, of Haddenham Ambassador to Iran 1963–71, Author of *The English amongst the Persians*.
- 1984–1985 DAVIES, Max (1912–1995) of Long Crendon. Business executive and conservationist. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1975–79. SECRETARY 1979–84.
- 1985–1996 COWDY, Mrs (1914–1996) of the Lee. Great-niece of Sir Arthur Liberty. A distinguished naturalist.
- 1987 BAINES, Arnold (B.1921), PhD, FSA, of Chesham. Statistician and mediaevalist. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1976.
- 1987–1989 ELVEY Mrs (Elisabeth) (D.1989) of Chalfont St Giles. LIBRARIAN 1967–75. ARCHIVIST 1975–86.
- 1987 FREMANTLE, Hon. John Tapling (B.1927) of Swanbourne. Succeeded as fifth Lord Cottesloe 1994. Lord Lieutenant 1984–96.
- 1987–1996 PULLEN, Brian (1906–1996) of Marsworth. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1961–75.
- 1988 GOWING, Christopher (B.1923) Curator 1972–88.
- 1989 WRIGHT, Edward, (B.1918) MBE, DSc, FSA, of Beaconsfield.
- 1990 BARLOW, Sir Thomas, 3rd Baronet (B.1914), DSC, DL, of Wendover. Chairman Natural History Section.
- 1994 MYNARD, Dennis (B.1936). Manager Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit 1976–94.
- 1995 RAISON, Sir Timothy (B.1929) PC. MP for Aylesbury 1979–84. President and founder 'Friends of the Museum'.
- 1997 HAGERTY, Robert Paterson (B.1916) BSc, PhD. SECRETARY 1984–97.

#### SECRETARIES

- 1848–1858 In these early years at least ten served – usually briefly – as secretary; there were three acting as such in 1854 alone and it is hardly worth recording their names until we come to one of the great servants of the Society:
- 1858–1884 REVEREND CHARLES LOWNDES (1809–1891). He was of the Chesham branch of the Lowndes family and was Rector of Hartwell 1842–91. It is clear that it was he who guided the Society from its uncertain start to comparative influence and prosperity by the time he retired twenty-six years later. He had acted as secretary, treasurer, editor and organiser of outings; it is not surprising that his work was split between four successors. As his obituary notice says (VI. 438) '... he became its factotum, undertaking all the working offices, ... indeed without his aid and management the Society would have been as nothing. ... 'He

- was elected Vice-President in 1883. *Obit.* VI, 438.
- 1884-1806 REVEREND RANDOLPH HENRY PIGOTT (1809-1900). One of the Diddershall family, he inherited the manor of Grendon Underwood and followed his father as Rector there, a family living, in 1862. He proceeded to build Grendon Hall, a large house with an 150 foot frontage; he was his own architect, had the bricks made on the spot and filled it with antiquities such as a staircase from the old episcopal palace in Norwich and doors from the demolished St Mary, Aldermansbury in the City. He shared the secretaryship with John Parker and 'was highly esteemed as a clergyman, a country gentleman, and a magistrate of his county'. He was elected a Vice-President in 1896. *Obit.* VIII, 309.
- 1884-1906 JOHN PARKER (1833-1906) FSA. Joint secretary with Mr Pigott, then with Mr Cocks but in the main 'editorial secretary' during his term. High Wycombe solicitor, churchwarden and Mayor in 1870. Apart from contributing forty articles to the *Records*, organising the annual excursions and master-minding the Jubilee exhibition in 1905 he undoubtedly held the Society together at a difficult time. 'He died in harness, after over twenty-two and a half years' persevering and painstaking service on the Society's behalf; in the face, during much of that time, of very great discouragement, in fact, it is by no means an unlikely supposition that without him the Society would have collapsed, and the issue of the *Records* ceased.' *Obit.* IX, 238.
- 1896-1908 ALFRED HENEAGE COCKS (1864-1928) FSA. He was a meticulous scholar and a distinguished naturalist who contributed much to the Society but was a prickly colleague. His many articles cover a wide field but he is best remembered for the monumental *The Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* published in 1897 which whilst a work of scrupulous scholarship is not improved by the alarming varieties of typeface which he insisted on using. His excavation of the Roman villa at Hambleton was important and he arranged the Museum which Lord Hambleton built to house the finds. He became Curator of the collections in 1893 but his reluctance to leave his estate at Skirmett made for difficulties which culminated in a painful dispute and his resignation (*see main text*). Parker, his colleague as joint secretary did all the routine work. He built up a menagerie at Skirmett including otters, badgers and wild cats as well as a herd of white wild cattle. Eland's tactful obituary notice (XII, 149) is worth reading; it concludes 'Like many profound scholars who mingle little with the world at large, Mr Cocks did not gladly tolerate opinions which differed from his own; but in any of the fields of learning which he cultivated it needed a bold and well-informed person to challenge his statements.' He was elected a VICE-PRESIDENT in 1900.
- 1908-1930 DOCTOR WILLIAM BRADBROOKE (D. 1940) A general practitioner at Bletchley. Like his long-serving predecessors Lowndes and Parker in his 22 years as secretary he held the Society together as they had done. He organised the annual Excursion and annual meeting with great efficiency; contributed to the *Records*; he was also secretary of the Bucks Parish Register Society and a founder of the society of Genealogists. 'In its early days the Society owed everything to the Rev. Charles Lowndes; in this century its greatest debt is certainly to William Bradbrooke'. *Obit.* XIII, 473.
- 1930-1951 EGERTON ALWYNE LAWER MARTYN FRIBA (D. 1954). An architect at High Wycombe. Earlier in his life he had worked for the Public Works department in Kingston, Jamaica. He was the architect of High Wycombe Police Station (1937) and he acted for the Society over alterations to the Museum including the creation of the Muniment Room in 1934. A reserved man, he was an efficient secretary for twenty-four years broken only by war service in the army 1941-44 when R. B. Wilson acted as Secretary. *Obit.* XVI, 63.
- 1954-1979 ELLIOTT MERRIAM VINEY (B. 1913), FSA. Aylesbury printer with Hazell Watson & Viney and British Printing Corporation. Assistant Editor 1947-74 with responsibility for production and distribution. Organised the Society's outings 1958-97. PRESIDENT 1979-98.
- 1979-1984 MAX DAVIES (1912-1995). Most of his

career was with the steel and oil industries. He retired to Bucks in 1967 and became prominent in archaeological and conservation activities. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL 1976–79. VICE-PRESIDENT 1984. (*Obit.* XXXVI, 191)

1984–1997 ROBERT PATERSON HAGERTY (B. 1916) BSc, PhD. Scientific civil servant. Rocket Propulsion department, Westcott 1947. Executive of Propulsion & Energetics Panel of NATO. Honorary member 1996. VICE-PRESIDENT 1997.

#### TREASURERS

1849 THOMAS TINDAL of Prebendal House, Aylesbury, Clerk of the Peace for Buckinghamshire

1850 REVEREND JOHN RADCLIFFE (D. 1898); Vicar of Aylesbury 1842–53. He contributed to the *Records*. *Obit.* VIII, 312

1854 E. K. BAYNES

1856 THOMAS DELL, Brewer of Bedford House, Aylesbury

1859 REVEREND CHARLES LOWNDES (1808–1890) Rector of Hartwell 1855–90. Also Secretary. *Obit.* VI, 438

1884 JOHN WILLIAMS (1832–1906). Manager of the Bucks and Oxon Bank in Aylesbury (amalgamated with Lloyds Bank in 1902). *Obit.* IX, 237

1905 EDWARD WILKINS (D. 1915). Coroner and senior partner in Wilkins & Son of Aylesbury who have been solicitors to the Society for over a century

1907 C. G. WATKINS (D. 1945). He worked in the education department of the County Council. He also served 1927–29

1919 COLONEL F. W. PIXLEY, FSA (D. 1932) He lived at Wooburn House and was an authority on the Baronetage but, partly owing to ill health, was not a satisfactory Treasurer. In 1926 the minutes record '... desirable to draw attention to the inconvenience arising from the rare attendances of the Hon. Treasurer at meetings of Council. . . . ' *Obit.* XII, 426

1929 STANLEY E. WILKINS (D. 1967) also of Wilkins & Son filled in for one year

1930 W. A. CHAPMAN

1936 DOCTOR THOMAS PARROTT (D. 1951). His surgery was at 1, Church Street, Aylesbury. His discovery of a Saxon burial at Pitstone is recorded at XIII, 365

1941 WILLIAM F. SERBY (D. 1981). He was County Treasurer and his four successors in that post followed him as Treasurers of the Society. For fifty years the Society benefited greatly from, their competent running of its finances

1963 JAMES WORBOYS, County Treasurer

1975 GERRETT B. RAVENS, County Treasurer

1981 ERIC J. DEUNG, County Treasurer

1985 HOWARD E. C. SPRINGTHORPE, County Treasurer

1992 BRIAN F. DAVIS

#### EDITORS OF RECORDS OF BUCKS

The first number, published in 1854 (Price two shillings, free to members) was titled

RECORDS  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
OR PAPERS AND NOTES ON THE  
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES AND ARCHITECTURE  
OF THE COUNTY  
TOGETHER WITH THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOR THE  
COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

For the first thirty years of publication there was no specific Editor, all the work being done by the Rev'd Charles Lowndes the Secretary.

1884–1906 JOHN PARKER, FSA (1833–1906) was 'Editorial Secretary'; he was a solicitor in High Wycombe, Mayor in 1879 and a churchwarden for twenty-five years. *Obit.* IX, 238

1907–1920 WILLIAM NIVEN, FSA (D. 1921). He was an architect practising in Marlow. He contributed several articles on churches and, in 1910, one on the then unfashionable buildings at Stowe. *Obit.* XI, 150.

1920–1946 GEORGE ELAND, FSA (1880–1971). He was the Audit Officer for London Transport. He knew the county better than any before him, walking it every weekend dressed in black with pinstripe trousers and enormous boots. Apart from numerous articles in the *Records* he wrote *In Bucks* (1923), *Papers from an Iron Chest at Doddershall* (1937) and *Shardeloes*

- Papers* (1947) and edited *Purefoy Letters 1735-1753* (1931). A meticulous Editor, he greatly raised the standards of scholarship demanded from his contributors.
- 1947-1969 EDWARD CLIVE ROUSE, MBE, D. Litt. Hon. MA Oxford (1901-1997). Authority on Wall Paintings. Awarded MBE for work in RAF on air photography interpretation. Author of *Old Towns of England* (1936), and *Medieval Wall Paintings* (1968) and edited the revision of the *Little Guide to Buckinghamshire* (1950). He had been Assistant Editor 1934-46. As learned and meticulous an Editor as his predecessor whose high standards he fully maintained. His first number was a fine Centenary edition in a new format for which he drew the now familiar Buckinghamshire Swan for the cover. He was assisted on that number by Michael Fletcher and by Elliott Viney who acted as assistant editor for production and distribution 1947-69.
- 1920-1979 GERALD ELVEY, FSA (1902-85). Naval cadet, barrister, manager of an engineering company and traveller. *Obit.* XXVII. 101.
- 1980- JOHN CHENEVIX TRENCH FSA (B. 1920)

#### MUSEUM CURATORS

In its early days there was little need of a Curator for the Society's small collections which were housed in a rented room in Church Street and only occasionally open. However in the eighteen-nineties the collection grew rapidly and was the main reason for the purchase of the Grammar School buildings in 1907. J. L. Myers began to reorganise the exhibits 1889-92; He was followed by A. H. Cocks, appointed in 1892, who supervised from a distance and who resigned after a serious row in 1908. (*See main text*). The new home justified the appointment of a full-time Curator.

- 1908-1941 EDWIN HOLLIS (D. 1941) Natural Historian with a wide knowledge in other fields. A man of great charm and an inspiring teacher and encouraged school visits. He was the first curator of a small

- 1941-1947 museum to be elected a Vice-President of the Museums Association. *Obit.* XIV. 71.
- 1947-1953 MISS CICELY BAKER (1900-1980), who lived in Ceely House, acted as Curator during the war years. She was the Society's Archivist 1946-1974 and a Vice-President.
- 1953-1960 R. COURTNEY SANSOME began the reorganisation needed after the war but left to become Curator of the Taunton Museum.
- 1960-1988 THOMAS ANDREW HUME, CBE (1917-1992) An able and vigorous administrator he did much to modernise the displays and helped in the transition to County Council control in 1957. He moved to take charge of the Liverpool museums and from there to be the first Director of the new Museum of London. He was elected a Vice-President in 1979 (*Obit.* XXXIV. 194).
- 1988- CHRISTOPHER GOWING (B. 1923) Elected a Vice-President 1988. He continued the good work of his predecessor and in particular assembled a nationally important collection of studio pottery.
- COLIN DAWES.

#### CHAIRMEN OF COUNCIL

At the beginning the Archdeacon of Buckingham was Chairman automatically but in practise Secretary Lowndes and his successor Pigott usually presided. A more formal arrangement began in 1898.

- 1898-1908 Rev'd E. D. Shaw
- 1908-1917 Sir Arthur Liberty
- 1917-1936 Coningsby Disraeli
- 1936-1957 Canon Ronald Bale
- 1957-1961 Jack F. Head
- 1961-1975 Brian Pullen
- 1975-1980 MAX DAVIES
- 1979-1996 Arnold H. J. Baines was chairman for much of these years but J. H. Collier-Wright, J. Chenevix Trench, Mrs. L. Head and Edward Legg also served.