

# The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archæological Society

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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## THE ANNUAL EXCURSION.

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This year the district lying between or in the neighbourhood of Bletchley and Newport Pagnell, all within the Hundred of Newport, was visited. Dr. Bradbrook, of Bletchley, arranged the details of the excursion very successfully.

### BLETCHLEY.

The church of St. Mary consists of chancel with north chapel, nave with aisles, south porch, and a fine Perpendicular tower at the west end. The building is chiefly of this later style, but the south doorway is of the 12th century, and the nave and south aisle, though raised and new windows inserted in the Perpendicular time, appear to date from the 14th century. The north and south arcades vary slightly, and that on the south has still above it the Decorated circular clerestory windows which now open into the loftier aisle, as raised in the Perpendicular period, when a new clerestory was added, the fine tower with its handsome arch opening to the nave built, and nave and aisles covered with the flat-pitched roofs, which still remain. The first "restoration" (though that word of ill-omen had not then been invented) was made by the industrious Bucks antiquary, Dr. Browne Willis, of Whaddon Hall, in 1704, at a cost of £1,345—a large sum to be so spent in those days—and in the taste of the time. He seems to have lined the chancel walls with "painted Grecian panelling" which has since been removed, but the ceiling paintings attributed to Sir James Thornhill, and representing the apostles, still remain, as also the classic cornice. Bloxam\* noted the "chancel screen "of oak, designed in the Palladian style, with Ionic pilasters," as having been added by Browne Willis. The destruction of this screen is very much to be regretted. A "thorough" restoration took place in 1867, when presumably this screen was removed. Though the account in the RECORDS† the following year does not actually say so, we read: "The curious ceiling of the chancel, "representing the twelve Apostles, has been preserved, partly in "deference to the memory of Browne Willis and partly on "financial grounds." So that probably if the money had held out the ceiling would have gone the way of the panelling and the screen. In the chancel is an altar tomb to Richard de Grey, 6th Baron Grey de Wilton, 1442, with a fine effigy in white alabaster.

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\* Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture, Vol. I., P. 294.

† Vol. III., 280.

A good oak alms-box remains—a turned shaft and square box with three locks, and dated 1637, with the usual inscription of the time: "Remember the Poor."

#### THE COMMUNION PLATE.

I am indebted to the Rector, member of our Society, for the following notes:—

There are five pieces, all of silver gilt.

1. **PATEN.**—Diam. 8½in. Foot of very beautiful design. Hallmarks: London, 1698. Maker's mark: [D. J.] Figure of Britannia. Lion's Head erased. In the centre a beautifully engraved I.H.S. irradiated, and the inscription "Ex dono Tho: Sparke, S.S. Theologiae Professoris et Ecclesiae de Blechlye Rectoris." But Dr. Sparke died in 1616; so that either this replaced an older piece, or, if money was bequeathed for the purpose, there was a strange delay in carrying out the bequest.

2, 3. **COMMUNION CUP.**—Height 8in., with **COVER-PATEN.**—Diam. 5½in. Hallmarks: London, 1716. Maker's mark: [P.] Britannia. Lion's Head erased. A large cup of Puritan shape. The cover-paten has a foot. The inscription is: "Ex dono: Paulli Collins: Arm: et Franciscæ uxoris: decimo quinto Aprilis Anno: Dom: 1717:." The following is a memorandum in Dr. Browne Willis' handwriting:—"April 15, 1717, one Mr. Paul Collins and Frances his wife gave a large silver chalice and cover 18oz., note Mr. Collins had the old chalice worth about £40 towards his charges of the new one which cost about £10 as is supposed including the old chalice."

4. **FLAGON.**—Height 10½in. Weight 40oz. Hallmarks: London, 1697—'8. Maker's mark. Leopard's Head crowned. Lion passant guardant. Inscribed in English: "This flagon was given by Mrs. Katharine Willis to the Church of St. Mary Blecheley in Bucks A.D. 1711." Engraved with the sacred monogram irradiated.

5. **ALMS DISH.**—Diam. 11½in. Weight 24oz. Hallmarks: London, 1710—'11. Maker's mark illegible. Britannia. Lion's Head erased. Inscribed: "This piece of plate was given by Mrs. Katharine Willis to the Church of St. Mary Blecheley in Bucks A.D. 1711." Engraved monogram as the last. [As the irradiated I.H.S. on these two last pieces are similar to that on the Dr. Sparke paten, we are perhaps justified in thinking that the busy antiquary, Dr. Browne Willis, may have had something to do with the replacing of the contemporary paten with one of his own time and taste, and probably larger.]

#### SYMPSON.

There is a little doubt as to the dedication of this church. The volume on Bucks churches, 1849, printed by the R: Arch: Inst: \* gives it as St. Nicholas; others as St. Thomas. The vicar told me the "feast" of the village is on Dec. 21st—strong evidence in favour of St. Thomas. This is a cross church with central tower, which is rather poor and narrower than either nave, chancel or transept. The work is chiefly Decorated. There are no aisles. The nave is spacious and well-lighted, its roof, from which the plaster ceiling has recently been stripped, having moulded tie-beams and two collars. Three-light reticulated tracery windows light the north and south gables of the transept, and below them, but not quite

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\* Eccles: & Archit: Topog: of England.

under their sills, westward, are "low side windows."† In the chancel a mural monument to one of the Hammer family has a good medallion of a woman mourning, by Bacon. The 12th cent. circular font is now unaccountably set aside in the north transept, while a modern font of no merit has usurped its place. The chancel was restored in 1871 by Sir Wynham Hammer, Bart.,‡ and recently the nave and transept have been taken in hand.

#### WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN.

The church of St. Mary is a much-restored church, first in 1867—a decade when perhaps more havoc was done in our old churches than in any other, although the succeeding one ran it very closely—and again in 1891. The work is chiefly in the Decorated style, the west tower Perpendicular, and without buttresses or pinnacles. Much has been spent on this church in the way of organ, oak chancel screen, stalls and other modern fittings, and a lych-gate has recently been erected by the vicar as a thank-offering. The staircase to rood-loft remains, and the doorway in the south aisle leading to it is decorated with a small canopy. Under a 14th cent. recessed arch, on the north side of the sanctuary, is the recumbent effigy of a priest, unusual in character. He is vested in alb, chasuble, amice, no stole, the hair long and with no tonsure appearing. There is a good oak Jacobean chair in the sanctuary.

#### WILLEN.

Our Society being Architectural as well as Archæological, this church (St. Mary Magd.), which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren for his old schoolmaster, Dr. Busby, was very properly included in the day's programme. A village church by Wren is a rarity, and the county is fortunate in having at least one specimen of his work in this kind. Wren of course lived at a time when the charm of the mediæval village church, harmonising so well with the landscape and the dwellings around it, was not appreciated as it is now. Though born in a country rectory his school life was spent at Westminster, whence he went to Oxford, and his studies and profession were pursued in cities here and abroad. It cannot be denied that this church has a somewhat exotic appearance, and that its lofty gaunt sides, unbroken by any projection, do seem inharmonious with their surroundings, and suggest that Wren was more at home amid the monumental architecture of cities. It should be borne in mind, however, that he was at this time—1680—overwhelmingly occupied in rebuilding churches in the city of London after the disastrous fire of 1666, that St. Paul's was a work of the most absorbing character, that even in the zenith of his practice as an architect he was one of the most active Fellows of the Royal Society; also that travelling was not then so quickly performed as now. Taking all this into account, can we think it inexcusable if Wren were possibly prevented by his innumerable engagements from making a journey so far along the Watling Street, and that, though he would not

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† The position of these windows seems only to add to the mystery as to their use. It must be admitted that the extra light on a desk theory is much shaken by them, for the transept at each end is amply lighted without them. The St. Christopher theory, mentioned amongst others in the account of Hitcham Church (P. 299) is quite shattered, for there would not be two paintings of St. Christopher upon the walls. Mr. P. Johnston, architect, who has written on this subject, is convinced that confusion was at least one of the uses to which the low side window was put.—Archæolog. Journal LXV., No. 1.

‡ Inform: W. Bradbrook.

disoblige his old schoolmaster, at whose expense the church was built, he may have made the design without having first inspected the site?

But if the exterior would seem more suited to front a street, where the flanks would hardly appear, the interior is not open to any adverse criticism. The plan is of the simplest—a tower at the west end with a vestry and small library (stocked by Dr. Busby) opening north and south from it, then an undivided rectangular building, lofty and of good proportion, pleasantly lighted, smaller but much resembling some of Wren's ungalleried interiors in London. To this unbroken parallelogram an apse was added by the Rev. J. Benthall, who was vicar in 1852–1887, with good effect, though some may think it disrespectful to our great architect.

The church stands in a spacious church-yard as rectangular as itself, enclosed with a brick wall of the same period and with gateways flanked by brick piers in its eastern and western sides. The material is red brick, with stone dressings. Dignity is given to the tower entrance by a semi-circular flight of steps. The belfry stage of the tower is decorated with angle pilasters carrying a complete entablature. Presumably there was formerly a western or singing gallery, with an organ in it, but this has disappeared and the organ stands on the floor level. The body of the church is divided into three bays, and this division is carried out in the handsome segmental plaster ceiling, broken by arches concentric with the window heads. The interior impresses one with the sense of rather stately comfort, produced by the wainscot pewing and wall lining, the black and white marble steps and flooring, the handsome pulpit with canopy and prayer-desk, the wainscot-encased organ, etc. The font is much like several in the city churches—marble stem of baluster form statuary marble bowl decorated with cherubim and drapery, an ogee-formed cover surmounted by a vase, all well carved.

#### NEWPORT PAGNELL.

After lunch at the Swan Hotel the spacious Perp. church dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul was visited, and the party was met by the vicar. Of earlier date is the north porch with groined ceiling and a chamber over it, and the south aisle and porch is of late Dec. style. Otherwise the building is Perp. of good robust character. The nave has five bays in addition to its semi-transept. The fine depressed oak roof remains. The side galleris which are perhaps a necessity are certainly a disfigurement. A much worn brass to a civilian, 1440, is now affixed to the door leading to rood-loft stairs. A handsome brass pendent chandelier of 18 lights, "The Gift of Mr. Jas. Leverett, 1768," now hangs in the tower and is used for gas. For further notes see RECORDS, Vol. IV., P. 43.

The ancient castle of the Paganelis no doubt stood to the east of the church, on the same hill, but I am not aware that any traces of it remain.

#### GAYHURST.

##### THE MANSION.

Anciently Gotehurst, or Gothurst as it is called in a letter from its owner, Sir Kenelm Digby, to Dr. Gerard Langbaine, Nov. 7, 1654\*, granted after the conquest to the Bishop of Bayeux, passed through the families of Nowers, Nevill and Mulsho. The present building though perhaps including some of the older walls is said to have been begun in 1597 by one of the last-named family, whose daughter and heiress Mary married Sir Everard Digby the conspirator, great landowner and, like his successor the more

\* Letters and Lives of Eminent Men by John Aubrey, 1813.

famous Sir Kenelm, handsome and "of great stature." Sir Kenelm Digby was born here in 1603, and seems to have spent much of his life here when not engaged on naval or diplomatic service. Whilst some were struck by his universal knowledge, others doubted his veracity, while to Evelyn he was a mountebank. The entrance front is quite symmetrical and of the form which in its resemblance to the Roman E has been supposed to have been so formed in compliment to the queen. In the angles formed by the projecting wings are in addition subordinate wings of less projection than the central porch, and of length in front sufficient for a six-light window in each of the three storeys. The arched entrance of the porch is enclosed by Doric columns and entablature, and above, on the first floor, the Ionic order is used, its entablature not being broken round the columns but carrying the uppermost storey which runs through on the plane of the face of the columns, a defect in design. The stone is remarkably well preserved. The fore-court is flanked by pedestals carrying open obelisks of fine design now connected by clipped yew hedges. A writer in the "Bucks Herald" \* gives the archit. hist. of the house thus:—(1) "A house" was built here by one of the Nevills in the beginning of the 16th cent. forming the south wing of the present mansion. (2) One "of the Mulsho family altered this house and added the Elizabethan portion. (3) In 1725 George Wrighte, son of the Lord Keeper, Sir Nathan Wrighte (purchaser of the estate in 1704) made additions "to the building in the later style of his time, erecting the dining-room and a ball-room above it at the back of the former building." Lord Carrington, who leased the house from 1856, made some alterations in the interior. Mr. W. W. Carlile, the present owner, who kindly allowed the party to go through the house, bought the estate in 1882.

The gardens fitly continue the architecture of the house. Cowper, at Olney, was not far away, and he said of Gayhurst: "The situation is happy, the gardens elegantly disposed, the "hothouse in the most flourishing state, and the orange trees the "most captivating creatures of the kind I ever saw." The house and its surroundings were well illustrated in "Country Life," Jan. 17th, 1903.

#### THE CHURCH.

No print or drawing seems to exist of the older church, which according to Cole, the antiquary, and friend of Browne Willis, consisted of nave and chancel, south aisle running their full length, and a low tower with 3 bells. He says that at the east end of the chancel "was a small oval circular building lower than the "rest of the chancel, ceiled at top and tiled." This, so far as one can guess from the description, must have been an apse of early date. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, had become ruinous early in the 18th century, and was rebuilt at the cost of George Wrighte, Esq., who bought the estate in 1704, and was finished in 1728. The whole of beautifully wrought freestone marvellously preserved, it consists of nave and chancel and western tower, surmounted by a well-designed open cupola. There is a sculptured monument by Roubiliac to Sir Nathan Wrighte, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, 1721. The design of this church has been attributed to Wren. From my own study of his work this seems to me to differ somewhat from it—for instance in the smallness of the chancel arch, and in the south doorway. On this question Mr. Carlile has favoured me with a letter, in which he says: "I have "always thought that possibly Wren made the plans which were "used after his death,† there being only an interval of "two or three years, and the plans had to be submitted to the

\* July 25, 1908.

† He died Feb. 25, 1723.

"Chancellor some time before leave was granted for the rebuilding. "Things moved slowly in those days, and it is quite possible that "this was done ten years before the work was started, which would "bring it well within the life of Wren, who was, I believe, staying "in the district about that time." Mr. Carlile has some hope of finding, amongst some old papers he has, evidence on this subject, which he has kindly promised to communicate.

#### LATHBURY.

The church of All Saints is one of the most interesting of the churches included in the excursion, and was described by the vicar. Originally a Norman church of the first half of the 12th cent. much of this building still remains, including the nave and south aisle and tower, though much altered. In course of restoration work 40 years ago a sculptured stone was found, embedded in one of the square piers of the nave, which is believed to have formed the tympanum of the south doorway. Its position in this pier, which must be less than 100 years subsequent (when the nave was enlarged) to the doorway seems puzzling. Above the archway to tower are indications of a window showing how much the height of the nave was increased. Other points of architectural interest are the good four-light Dec. east window, and two-light windows of the south side. There is a low side window which has been blocked, as has also the priest's doorway. The chancel has a floor of black and white marble, of which the origin is remarkable. We read in Lipscomb (Vol. IV.), "Sir Henry Andrewes, "Bart., at the request of his daughter Margaret, who died (1666) "before she was fourteen years old, beautified the chancel with "black and white marble, and furnished it with a velvet carpet, "damask linen, cushion and plate." In the vestry is a handsome table with solid, shaped and carved ends which may probably have been the altar, and possibly also in memory of the piety of this young girl. Some fragments of 14th cent. glass remain in a south window of chancel. Lipscomb notes that in this window "was "formerly a crucifix; and in north window a shield bearing a "cross gu.; in 1st and 4th quarters a lion ramp. or." He gives a view of the exterior from the south-east. But more interesting perhaps than anything else in this church is the remarkable series of mural paintings done at various periods from the 14th to the 17th centuries. A paper on the church and these paintings was read by the Rev. H. Bull, vicar, at the annual meeting held at Chicheley Hall, 1869, the church undergoing restoration at the time. (RECORDS, Vol. IV., 37-42).

Mr. C. E. Keyser in the South Kensington Handbook on this subject\* writes: On the walls of nave and round the arches dividing nave and aisles, and in the splays of the clerestory windows: A bold floral pattern, 15th cent.

On S. wall of nave: Penance, extreme unction, Burial; the remaining sacraments are obliterated.

On N. wall of nave: St. Michael weighing Souls, The Virgin.

Over the chancel arch: The Doom.

On the capitals N. side of nave and in the aisles: Faint remains of colouring.

The painted ornament above the south arcade, on the nave side, appeared to me to have been much restored.

#### BROUGHTON.

The church of St. Lawrence, chiefly early Decorated, is, like the last, remarkable for its ancient wall paintings uncovered in 1849. It is aisleless, with west tower and south porch. Lipscomb gives

\* A list of Buildings in Great Britain and Ireland having Mural Painted Decorations, of Dates prior to the Latter Part of the 16th cent., by C. E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., 3rd Edit., 1883. 2/3.

its dimensions as: Nave 66ft. by 18; chancel 25 by 16. "Between," he says, "the nave and chancel is a lofty arch with open screen 'of wood,' which presumably was ruthlessly destroyed, probably because it was not Gothic, when the church was 'thoroughly restored, 1880-81,'"\* Sheahan (1862) noted: "The nave is 'wainscoted and seated with old oak benches . . . . hexagonal oak 'pulpit, with massive canopy over it' (this was also destroyed, no doubt, for the same offence as that of the screen); 'the open timber roof of oak was renewed about a dozen years ago. . . . On either side the chancel arch is a desk to which books are 'chained; on the right Bishop Jewel's Defence of the Apologie, 1567; on the left Erasmus' Commentary, which were placed here 'in 1666.'" The stair turret for access to the rood-loft is well preserved at the n.e. angle of the nave. In the sanctuary floor are brasses to John de Broughton, 1403, Agnes his wife, 1399, and a late one, 1655. There are two beautiful painted glass windows by the cultured artist, the late C. E. Kempe, whose loss we all deplore. Mr. Kempe while employed here studied the wall paintings, and Dr. W. Bradbrook has favoured me with an extract from a letter to Mr. Luxmore, then rector, in reply to some questions he propounded to Kempe. In reference to those on the s. wall: "I presume the figure with the cross is S. Helen; her companion 'is I think without doubt St. Eloy. He was patron, and a very 'popular one, of blacksmiths; locks, keys, and farriery (the horse 'is also shewn). As Bishop of Noyon he carried the *crozier*, not 'the *cross* as S. Dunstan would.'" S. George is remarkable in having his armour and general action of figure, and front part of the horse very nicely and satisfactorily drawn, and Cleodolinda, or all that remains of her, is quite pretty and charming. The Last Judgment (over the n. doorway) is only a fragment I presume. S. Mary as Mater Miserecordiae is unusual in the subject. The "Jaws of Death" and the "Angels of the Judgment" have much force. The fourth subject is a decided "crux," and I am quite unable to explain it. It is a composition of "Our Lady of Pity" surrounded by lay-folk. The 'heart' and 'hand' and 'toot' seem to point to some explanation of the mystery of the five 'wounds,' as do also the mutilated limbs of the Christ. The two little seated figures are playing—or have been playing—draughts, chess, or back-gammon. Their *board* is no *grid-iron*, nor does S. Lawrence in any way seem to be commemorated. I incline to regarding the object in one of the lower figures' hands as a Host—tho' it might be a coin. Whether the subject can ever be fully explained must depend on our knowledge of mediæval literature. I am convinced that there are many curious instructive works remaining to us in Art which can only be explained by some sermons, treatises, poems, legends, etc., which became popular, served their purpose, and have since been lost in the great destruction of the 16th century. Had I leisure I could give you several instances of this, and I feel sure that the subject comes under the head of lost religious literature. Thus, possibly, the Archdeacon's suggestion of the 'dismemberment of Christ and of His Church' might be found to bear on the illustration."

Of these paintings Mr. Keyser writes in the hand-book already quoted:

"Space between windows N. side of nave: The Virgin with the Over the N. doorway: The Day of Judgment, 15th cent.

Over the S. doorway: St. George and the Dragon, 15th cent.

Space between windows S. side of nave: An Archbishop, or Body of our Lord.

Bishop, St. Dunstan, and a female saint (? St. Helena). Below, horseshoes, hammers and various implements.

Remains of Decorative patterns.

A series of tracings are in the library of the R. Archæolog. Inst. Archæolog. Journal VI., 176; Builder, 1864, P. 725, and 1881, Vol. XL., P. 747; Gent. Mag. 1849, XXXI., new series, 405. Ecclesiologist IX., 314; Sheahan, Bucks, P. 508."

There are besides three 17th cent. texts within medallions at the west end of the nave.

In the account of this excursion in the "Bucks Herald" it is noted: "There are two ancient coped coffin lids in the churchyard."

#### MILTON KEYNES.

A brief note upon this church which, though passed on the way, was not included in the programme of the excursion\*, should I think be given here, as this district is not likely to be re-visited for some years. Dedicated to All Saints, it is architecturally perhaps of higher quality than any of the mediæval churches visited. Only the narrow Transitional chancel arch remains to indicate the earlier church, of much smaller dimensions; the rest is of the 14th cent., and the nave quite a noble specimen of the Decorated style. The church consists of the enlarged chancel with north aisle or chapel, tower, which has an unusual position at about the centre of the north side of the church, the enlarged nave, with a most ornate south porch. The south wall may probably incorporate that of the earlier church. Instead of destroying the older and too narrow chancel arch a second and additional arch was formed to the north of it, opening also into the chancel, when the wider nave was built in the 14th cent. It should be borne in mind, when endeavouring to trace the architectural history of an ancient church, that throughout the Middle Ages a church, large or small, never went out of use. It was never "closed for repairs" or alterations as in our day, but used daily, and the lamps kept burning; and the shifts that were resorted to in order not to prevent this may often be traced with interest.

Dr. Lipscomb unaccountably describes this church as having a nave with two aisles.

Wm. Caveler † thus describes parts of this remarkable building: "The buttresses are in two stages, many of them with canopies and richly crocketed pinnacles. The arches dividing the chancel from its aisle are now bricked up" (these have since been opened) "and the aisle used as a school-room. . . . The sedilia and piscina are very fine; they have detached shafts and rich open tracery in the heads. . . . The porch is one of the most striking parts of the church, the inner doorway has rich hanging tracery, and on the flat space between the arch and drip-mould is the ball-flower, connected by a tendril; the sides of the porch are open, divided into three compartments by shafts carrying open tracery. This church deserves attentive examination: it has a great variety of rich detail, and all very uncommon."

The Rev. A. Baker, of Aylesbury, for many years hon. sec. of this Society, adds to this note the following: "In the aisle or chapel on the north side of chancel are two very remarkable low side windows on either side of the north door; the east one very low, with a four-centred head, now bricked up, the hinge of the shutter remaining; the other E.E., with a window above, included in one internal four-centred arch. In this chapel is a piscina with a cinquefoiled head and the ball-flower in the mouldings." On the floor of the chancel is the brass of Adam Babington, rector, dec: 1427.

W. N.

\* Dr. Bradbrook, with whom I subsequently visited these churches, assured me that it was solely want of time that excluded it.

† Ecclesiast. and Archit. Topog. of England, Arch. Inst., 1849.

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the above Society was held in the New Museum, Church-street, Aylesbury, on Friday afternoon, July 17, when the Rev. E. D. Shaw presided. There were also present Lady Smyth, the Rev. J. L. Challis, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Horwood, Dr. Baker, Dr. Berry, Dr. Bradbrook, Mr. P. Manning, F.S.A., Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A., Mr. A. H. Cocks, F.S.A., Mr. W. A. Forsyth, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. H. J. Wood, Mr. Swinfen Marris, Mr. Hollis (the curator), Mr. A. L. Liberty, Mr. E. Wilkins, Mr. C. R. Disraeli, Mr. C. G. Watkins, Mr. W. Crouch, Mr. R. J. Thomas, Mr. W. H. Marsh, Mr. H. A. Whitworth, Mr. C. Pigott, Mr. J. M. James, Mr. Robinson-Smith, the Rev. S. Winter, and others.

Letters of apology had been received by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. H. Cocks, from the Ven. the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Captain Bertram, Lord Boston, Lord Cottesloe, Mr. J. T. Harrison, Mr. C. W. Raffety, Rev. A. H. Stanton, and Mr. A. Stowe. He said he had also received a formal announcement of the death of the senior member of the Society, Sir John Evans, K.C.B., D.C.L., on May 31, in his 85th year, who joined the Society in 1856.

The CHAIRMAN, at the commencement of the meeting, said he was instructed to bring before the Society the following resolution:—“That the Society regrets the resignation of Mr. Cocks as secretary, after his long and valuable services for the Society, and trusts he will continue his connection with the Society as honorary curator and scientific adviser, and, secondly, that until the annual meeting of the Society, which has been fixed for Oct. 8th, Dr. Bradbrook be asked to act as temporary secretary.” They would, perhaps, like to hear what Mr. Cocks wished to say.

Mr. Cocks read his explanation, in the course of which he said it was with very deep regret he tendered his resignation as secretary of the Society, which he had held most of the time jointly with Mr. J. Parker, for almost 16 years. He wished to assure the members that his resignation was not due to anything in connection with the Society, but owing to differences he had had with certain members of the committee. When he started 16 years ago the Museum was in practically a state of chaos, and his time and efforts had been occupied in various and necessary duties, such as re-arranging the cases, and more especially identifying specimens whose labels had been lost, and in labelling and cataloguing, and such preliminary work. He would like to impress on the members the importance of keeping the Museum to the county, and not letting the management fall into the hands of a purely local committee. He did not originally seek office in the Society, and he might add his interest in the work of the Museum and of the Society had not abated in the least. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure all the members regretted the fact that they would lose the valuable services of Mr. Cocks as secretary, and he hoped he would see his way clear to accept the suggestion made in the resolution, and continue his connection with the Society. (Applause.) He had already told them he had not lost interest in the Society, and they hoped he would continue to give them his valuable assistance as honorary curator and scientific adviser. (Applause.)

Mr. SWINFEN HARRIS said it would be a great blow to the well-being of the Society if Mr. Cocks could not see his way to do as they wished him. He did not think anyone could possibly say the Society had not really been maintained and kept together by Mr. Cocks and the late Mr. Parker, and in times of storm and stress they had been to the fore in doing their very best, both for archaeology and architecture. He would be delighted to see Mr. Cocks in his old position.

The Rev. S. WINTER thought Mr. Cocks had taken the step he had because he had had obstacles placed in his way, and that the resolution before the meeting entirely avoided Mr. Cocks' case.

He thought the zeal of certain members had carried them away in touching the exhibits in Mr. Cocks' absence. There was a zeal which might be a serious hindrance to the work of the Society.

Dr. BAKER explained that as the assistant curator he did what he could to help Mr. Cocks, and he believed any trouble which had arisen had been through a misunderstanding, for they were all anxious to assist in and promote the welfare of the Society. (Applause.)

Lady SMYTH, in the course of an explanation, said she had had several specimens out in the absence of Mr. Cocks, but, when she did so, she did not think he would be over for several months.

The Rev. S. WINTER emphasised what he thought should be the rule of the society—that no one should have anything out without the permission of the Curator.

Mr. WATKINS considered that any matter of that kind should have been discussed at a meeting of the committee, and not at a general meeting. There were sometimes little things which if left alone might lead to grave irregularities.

Dr. BAKER said some misunderstanding might have arisen through the Curator living so many miles away, and only making occasional visits. He 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 was valuable. Other than that his post as assistant curator had practically been a sinecure.

Mr. WOOD—As assistant curator it was perfectly within your province to do anything like that?

Dr. BAKER—Yes.

Mr. LIBERTY said as a member of the committee he appreciated the services of Mr. Cocks, but, perhaps, any difficulties that had arisen was on account of the fact that Mr. Cocks was unfortunately so geographically situated that there was sometimes delay.

Dr. BAKER, Mr. WATKINS, and Mr. LIBERTY having again spoken, Mr. WILKINS said during his 20 years' membership of the Society he had always regarded Mr. Cocks as the most accomplished archaeologist they had in the Society. The matter was so small that if they discussed it at any length they might make mountains of mole-hills. In a Society like theirs there must be a little give-and-take. (Applause.)

Mr. Cocks again referred in detail to the complaints he had had to make, and the resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried without a dissentient.

Dr. BRADBROOK, in accepting the office as a temporary one only, said if he had any letters which required archaeological knowledge he hoped Mr. Cocks would allow him to send him those letters. (Applause.)

At the conclusion of the meeting the CHAIRMAN said they had received certain plate from the disbanded Bucks Militia, and he thought they should express their thanks for the loan of it.

This was agreed to, and the meeting concluded.

[Reprinted from the *Bucks Herald*, July 25, 1908.]

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting was held at the New Museum on Thursday afternoon, there being a good attendance. Mr. Coningsby Disraeli was elected to the chair, that gentleman stating that he did so under protest. The Archdeacon should have taken the chair, but had been prevented from doing so, having shortly to go to another meeting. There were also present the Ven. Archdeacon of Bucks, Lady Smyth, Colonel and Mrs. Lee, Mr. A. L. Liberty, Colonel Horwood, Dr. H. Rose, Mr. W. Foat, Mr. R. J. Thomas, Mr. Swinfen Harris, Mr. A. H. Cocks, F.S.A., Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A.,

Mr. G. Weller, Dr. Baker, Mr. Hardinge-Tyler, Mr. Skull, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Riley, Rev. F. W. Bennett, Mr. E. Wilkins, Mr. Roscoe, Mr. C. G. Watkins, Dr. Bradbrook, Mr. G. T. De Fraine, Mr. F. L. Sutton, Mr. J. T. Harrison, Mr. C. W. Raffety, Mr. E. L. Reynolds, Mr. Robinson-Smith, Rev. J. C. Farmborough, Rev. M. Graves, Rev. S. M. Winter, Mr. Hollis (curator), etc.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mr. A. H. Cocks, and signed by the Chairman.

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

On the motion of Mr. G. WELLER, the Right Hon. the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., was re-elected president, the vice-presidents being re-elected *en bloc*.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer (Mr. C. G. WATKINS) read his report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907, as follows:—

*Receipts*—Balance at Bank, £4:4:3; sale of "Records," £1:1:3; excursion, 10s. Subscriptions—Arrears, 1906-7, £6:11; current, £96:4; subscription paid in error, £1:1; overdraft, £14:13:3; total, £124:4:9.

*Payments*—Rent, £6; insurance, £1:2:6; excursion, 9s.; treasurer's salary and commission, £6:2:4; caretaker's salary, £4:2; fuel, 7s. 1d.; printing (part 1906 and whole 1907), £101:8:3; Archæological Index, £1:8:2; cleaning, 9s.; cheque book, 2s. 6d.; postages and stationery, £1:12:11; refund subscription paid in error, £1:1; total, £124:4:9.

The number of members in 1907 was 202, consisting of 176 ordinary, 22 life, and 4 honorary members. During 1908 the number of members who had resigned was 8, 4 had died, and 4 had been struck off; whereas there had been a large increase in new members, the number on the books at the present time being 249.

Interim financial statement to 8th October, 1908.—Receipts to date, £160:16; payments to date, £85:2:2; cash balance, £75:13:10. There are outstanding subscriptions from members which will probably realise £10; approximate balance, £85:13:10. From this amount, however, owing to the generosity of one member, who has paid in £50, as well as undertaking to pay gas bill for the year, and another member who has paid £10, these amounts being definitely allocated for special purposes this year, £30 of the balance of £85 is not available for current expenditure of the Society. The amount available, therefore, for other liabilities is £55:13:10, including printing of "Records" and printing accounts, which will probably absorb the whole of this balance. Having regard to the fact that there are 22 life members, on account of whom no financial reserve has been created, and that a large number of members compound for payment, paying £2 for five years' subscriptions in advance, the committee should have a balance of £50:16 on 31st December to meet apportionment at 8s. per member per year for sums paid in advance, making no provision for life members. There are also 4 honorary members. At the last meeting of the committee accounts were passed for payment for alterations and adaptation of the old Grammar School buildings to render them suitable for Museum purposes and residence of Curator. In this connection, sums are due to Messrs. W. Y. Green and Co. (£15:8:3) and Mayne and Son (£275:15:8). To meet this expenditure there appears to be £7:2:11 standing to the credit of an account known as the "Museum Fund Account," and a further sum of £12:4:8 standing to the Society's credit in what is known as the "Deposit Account." The Bank Manager, in a

letter dated 7th October, suggests that these accounts be closed. Owing to the further goodwill of Lady Smyth and Mr. Liberty, who have each consented to become guarantors for the sum of £100, I hope to be able to pay the accounts to-day, and I feel sure that the Society, on looking round the building, will feel that they have good value for the expenditure. With regard to the additional cost which will be incurred by the Society in consequence of the establishment of a Museum worthy of the Society, I venture to think it will be necessary in the future to have an assured income of £200 per annum, and I trust that members will be good enough to endeavour to increase the membership, in order that this amount may be realised.

Mr. WATKINS then read a letter from the Bankers, stating that they were pleased to inform him that they agreed to Lady Smyth and Mr. Liberty becoming guarantors for the sum of £200.

The report was adopted.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. COCKS, seconded by Mr. WELLER, to merge the separate accounts into one, and on the suggestion of the Chairman it was also decided that letters conveying the Society's best thanks be sent to Lady Smyth and Mr. Liberty for becoming guarantors.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Dr. BRADBROOK said he had only occupied the position of interim hon. secretary for the past few weeks, and there was little or nothing to say. He had attended, himself, solely to the business and directions of the committee. The members of the committee and vice-presidents had been asked if they would share in becoming the guarantors of the sum of about £70 or £80, which would be needed, and he hoped all would join in the sharing.

#### CURATOR'S REPORT.

The Curator (Mr. E. HOLLIS) read his report, as follows:—

In this my first annual report I am sorry to say that the Society's Collection is not yet displayed as I should wish to see it. This is partly from the lack of sufficient good cases, and partly because a great proportion of the time since I came here, in March, has been taken up in continuing Mr. Cocks' inventory of the specimens, and removing them from the old premises.

The collection, which contains a quantity of very interesting material, is now all transferred to this building, and I have not the least doubt that it will be added to rapidly; as soon as the owners of objects of interest see that we have suitable accommodation for their proper display and preservation.

As evidence of this, I may say that since March the list of acquisitions numbers over 200 objects, given by 33 donors.

I have from time to time reported to the committee on these gifts, and now have the pleasure of stating that since my last report I have two valuable additions to notify. One consisting of eleven bound volumes of *Archæologia*, presented by Lady Smyth, and the other being five very fine gold coins, which the same lady handed me two days ago, as a gift from a friend of hers, Mr. Charles Lowndes, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Three of the coins, which are of Roman date, are in an exceptionally good state of preservation, and the other two have a special interest in this Museum, as being specimens of the Ancient British gold coins from the Whaddon Chase find of 1849.

I have placed these in the square table case at the back of the room.

I would also call your attention to a very fine bronze armlet in the same case, which was found at Hartwell. This was acquired a short time ago by subscription of a few of our members.

Feeling sure it was of uncommon type, during the past week I submitted it to the authorities at the British Museum, and they tell me that it is of an extremely rare, if not unique type, as an English specimen, and they think that in all probability it is of Continental origin, dating between the 5th and 7th centuries, B.C.

The report was adopted, and, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, votes of thanks were passed to Lady Smyth for her kindness in obtaining the gifts, and also to Mr. Lowndes.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

##### HON. CURATOR AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISER.

Mr. A. L. LIBERTY proposed that Mr. Cocks be elected to that post. He was a man admirably fitted for the position, and anyone who knew him would be only too glad to act under his guidance.

Dr. BAKER seconded, and the motion was carried.

Whilst thanking them for the honour conferred upon him, Mr. Cocks said he should like his position defined before he accepted the office. No one took more interest in the Museum than he did. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he thought they should leave that matter to the committee to deal with, as it was not one they could thrash out at that meeting.

This was agreed to.

##### HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. Cocks said he did not think they could improve on the gentleman who occupied the position, and he proposed the re-election of Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A. The Society could congratulate themselves upon having such a capable man as Mr. Niven.

Mr. E. SWINFEN HARRIS seconded, and the proposition was carried.

Mr. NIVEN, in expressing his thanks for re-election, referred to the forthcoming issue of the "Records," one of the contributions to which would be a very interesting manuscript by Mr. Garrett-Pegge.

##### HON. BUSINESS SECRETARY.

Mr. LIBERTY moved the re-election of Dr. Bradbrook, remarking that they could not have a more suitable man for the position.

Mr. E. WILKINS seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. BRADBROOK briefly returned thanks for the honour and confidence they had placed in him in electing him to the post. His attention would be particularly directed to the business aspect of the Society, to which he proposed restricting himself severely. Any correspondence he received that dealt with the scientific work of the Society he should hand over to Mr. Cocks, who had had to do with several matters whilst he had been acting as interim secretary.

##### HON. TREASURER.

Mr. WELLER proposed the re-election of Mr. Watkins as hon. treasurer, which was seconded by Mr. ROBINSON-SMITH.

Mr. Cocks moved as an amendment that Mr. Watkins be not appointed, but this, not being seconded, fell to the ground, and the original motion was carried.

Mr. WATKINS thanked all but one member for re-electing him to the office.

##### HON. ASSISTANT CURATOR.

On the motion of Mr. WATKINS, seconded by Mr. E. L. REYNOLDS, Dr. J. C. Baker was re-elected to the position, an amendment moved by Mr. Cocks that Dr. Baker be not elected not being seconded.

## HON. AUDITORS.

Colonel Horwood and Mr. W. Crouch were re-elected hon. auditors, with thanks for past services.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. RAFFETY, seconded by Mr. ROBINSON-SMITH, the following committee was elected:—The Rev. E. D. Shaw, Rev. C. O. Phipps, Mr. T. Horwood, Mr. G. Weller, Mr. J. T. Harrison, Mr. E. L. Reynolds, Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, Dr. J. C. Baker, Mr. E. Wilkins, Mr. F. G. Gurney, Mr. F. Skull, and Mr. W. A. Forsyth.

## REPRESENTATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. A. H. Cocks then moved the following resolution:—

That, owing to the importance of the work committed to the Museum Sub-committee, that sub-committee should be representative of the county in its widest extent, and be selected so far as possible from members who possess some technical knowledge of the subject.

The Rev. M. GRAVES said he quite agreed that the County should be thoroughly represented on the committee.

The SECRETARY read a minute from the report of the last annual meeting, which stated that a Local House or Museum Sub-committee was appointed out of the General Committee, and whose powers were defined by the General Committee. This was done, as the committee often met, and it was difficult for members in distant parts of the county to get to all meetings.

Some further discussion ensued, and upon being put to the meeting the motion was lost.

## OPENING OF THE MUSEUM.

The SECRETARY reported that he had been in communication with the President with regard to the opening of the Museum some time in November, but had had no definite reply. He also stated that a considerable sum would be required for the provision of show-cases for the Museum, and an appeal for funds for that purpose would shortly be issued.

## VOTES OF THANKS.

The TREASURER moved a vote of thanks to Mr. G. Weller for the gift of £25 left by his sister, for whom he was executor, which was carried, amid applause.

A vote of thanks was also accorded Dr. Bradbrook for the excellent way he had organised the excursion.

Mr. WELLER moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Disraeli for presiding, and this was carried, and briefly acknowledged by the CHAIRMAN.

Several new members were elected

[Reprinted from the *Bucks Herald*, October 10, 1908.]

## Donations to the Bucks Museum

SINCE NOVEMBER, 1907.\*

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The late Sir JOHN EVANS, F.R.S., &c.—Fourteen 17th cent. Bucks Tradesmen's Tokens.

Sir J. THOMAS—Man-trap.

Mr. W. NIVEN—Eight wheel-back Wycombe Chairs, and One ditto Arm-chair.

Mr. J. ANDREWS—One ditto Arm-chair.

Sir E. VERNEY—Piano of curious design; Wooden Butter-scales, condemned, from Mursley.

Mr. J. BERRY, F.R.C.S.—Geolog. Map of Bucks.

Mr. S. G. PAYNE—Number of Fossils and other objects; Lace-maker's Candlestick; Straw-press, &c.; Flint Implements; Fossils from Hartwell, &c.

Colonel W. TERRY—Drum-major's Staff of the late Bucks Militia.

Rev. R. USSHER—One Buckingham Token (of John Hartley, jun., 1665); Tappa from Fiji.

Mr. G. CARRINGTON—Two Stone Cannon-balls.

Dr. J. C. BAKER—Constable's Staff; Number of Stuffed Birds; Camden's Britannia; Science Gossip, 11 vols.; Two Roman Vases; Fragments of British Urn.

Mrs. OGILVIE—£10.

Dr. HUMPHRY—Bangles (?); Collection of Birds' Eggs.

The SOCIETY—Coins found in making Drains at Museum.

Lady SMYTH—Collection of African Weapons; Brass Warming-pan; Skillett; Kaffir Basket; Archæologia, Vols. 54, Pt. ii.—59, Pt. ii.; Egypt Exploration, 13 vols.; Survey of Egypt, 8 vols.; Denderah, by Flinders Petrie; Deir-el-Bahari, by Naville, Vols. II., III., IV., V.; and other books on Egypt.

Mr. R. J. THOMAS—Mediæval Dagger from Loudwater.

Mr. F. H. PARROTT—Flint Flakes, &c.

Mr. A. E. HOLLOWAY—Five ivory Lace-bobbins; Deed, *temp.* Car. I.

Mr. CECIL BLAGDEN—Eight examples of Egyptian Pottery.

Dr. PARROTT—Two pieces mediæval Pottery; Pipistrelle Bat.

(By SUBSCRIPTION)—Bronze Armlet, found at Hartwell.

The Hon. L. WALTER ROTHSCHILD, D.Sc., &c., and Dr. E. J. O. HARTERT, Ph.D., &c.—Number of Stuffed Birds.

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\* Roughly in the order as received.

Mr. J. STEVENS—Six old Keys; old Box Spur; Two Stuffed Cormorants.

(PURCHASED)—Roman Vase found in Stone Sand-pit.

Mrs. BLAGDEN—Malay sandals, and Egyptian Pottery.

Miss STARBUCK—Bronze Spear Head.

Mr. C. LOWNDES—Five Gold Coins, viz.: (1 and 2) Ancient British Aur. Specimens of find at Whaddon Chase (See Anc. Brit. Coins, by Sir J. Evans, Plate B., No. 10; RECORDS, Vol. I., p. 15, and frontispiece). (3) Roman—Aur. Nero. Ob. NERO. CAESAR. AVG.: Laureated head of Emperor to R.; Re. IANVM, &c. (4) Roman—Aur. Trajan. Ob. IMP. CAES. NER. TRAIAN. OPTIM. AVG. GERM. Laureated Head of Emperor. Re. PARTHICO, &c. (5) Roman—Aur. Justinian I. Ob. D.N. IVSTINIANVS. P.P. AVG. Bust full face; Globe and Cross. Re. (VICTORIA) AVG. F. In exergue—CON. OB.

Captain SMITH-NEILL—Seal Impressions.

Zoological specimens (Mammals, Birds, Eggs, Reptiles, and Insects) have also been given by Mr. RICKARD, Mr. E. HOLLIS, Mr. L. CROUCH, Mr. C. SLAUGHTER, STAFF of AYLESBURY HOSPITAL, Mrs. McNAIR, Mr. STRATFOLD READ, Mr. W. CROUCH, Mr. HAYSTAFF, Miss E. JONES.

Books and Pamphlets have also been received from Messrs. HAZELL, WATSON, and VINEY, Mr. O. RATCLIFF, Colonel GOODALL, Dr. BRADBROOK, BUCKS PARISH REGISTER SOC., The LINCOLN ARCHIT. SOC., Mr. H. YATES THOMPSON, Mr. J. BERRY, F.R.C.S.

From the zoological specimens it is only necessary here to particularize the gift by the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Dr. E. Hartert, of some mounted birds occurring in England, but of which the Society is unlikely to obtain examples procured in Bucks; and an adult male Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) obtained by the keeper at Wotton (in August). This little falcon, one of the most beautiful of raptorial birds, occurs almost every summer in Oxon and Berks, and therefore probably does so also in Bucks, but is unrecognized. Being perfectly harmless to game (its food being principally large moths and beetles, and partly *small* birds), it deserves to be exempted from persecution; and on account of the peculiar length of its wings, the beauty of its flight would furnish a most interesting and charming sight to anyone fortunate enough to meet with the bird.

Among the antiquities, the gold coins presented by Mr. C. Lowndes, are the most interesting and valuable addition during the past year.

On Sept. 7, the resident Curator reported to the Committee that the whole of the Society's collection had been transferred from the old premises to the new Museum.

A. H. C. (from Mr. Hollis's List).