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ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS, 1915-16.

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HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT, 1915 (JUNE 9).

DURING the past year considerable resignations, many due to the war, have occurred, and, since August last, proposals for election have been few in number.

Our meeting at Maidstone in March last, at which Mr. Potts reported in a letter from Sir W. St. John Hope the very interesting discoveries at St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and Mr. Aymer Vallance again discoursed to us (this time on the development of architecture as illustrated by some French churches), was, considering the circumstances of the times, well attended, 120 being present at tea.

I should like the Council to bear in mind the advisability of so altering the Rules of the Society that the Annual Business Meeting might be held at Maidstone, when matters of business and interest might be discussed with more time and greater consideration than when sandwiched in on the day of our Annual Excursion. The two or three members of the Council with whom I have discussed this project have certainly not received the suggestion unfavourably.

A more distinctly local meeting was held at Tonbridge in May after the Local Secretaries' Lunch. Sixty were present at the tea, but this was not the full number. Mr. Powell said the Sussex Society derived much benefit from similar half-day meetings, and was in favour of them himself. Sir William St. John Hope's letter on St. Augustine's excavations was again read, with the assistance of a plan. The situation of the town gates of Tonbridge and the

ditch surrounding the town was pointed out on the Ordnance Map. Mr. Handcock described the attempt to discover the foundation of the Chapel Tower in the Castle, took members round the circuit of the Castle walls and shewed the stones brought to light in clearing out the well on the Castle mound. These stones Mr. Youens afterwards photographed, as well as taking some seventeen other photographs of the Castle, the old inns, the Portreeve's house near the site of the Postern Gate, and the old ditch at the rear of the dwelling, and one shewing the moulding and stones of the Norman window in the south wall of the chancel from the south chancel aisle in the parish church of Tonbridge.

Your Society did all it could to welcome the British Archaeological Association to Canterbury last July, and on the Friday evening of the week a Paper on "The Old Roads of East Kent" was read by Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G.

Vol. XXXI. is now in the printer's hands owing to the kindness of the Rev. Charles E. Woodruff, who offered his services to the Society owing to the fact that one editor is at the front and the other overworked at the War Office. This kindness is very much appreciated by all.

I need hardly remind members how necessary it is for each one during the difficult times we are now passing through to endeavour to secure as many new members as possible for the Society.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Allchin for the kind way in which he always tries to help us by every means in his power, and of Mr. Elgar I need only say that he is as interested in his work as ever, and his assistance is often sought, even from afar, by persons to whom his qualifications have become known.

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#### HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT, 1916 (JULY 20).

BEFORE entering upon the work of the year I should like to state plainly that the two Annual gatherings at Maidstone and the place selected for our summer excursion have not cost the Society anything, at any rate during recent years, except the postage stamps and the printing of the notices sent to members. I wish to emphasize this, as several members have asked whether we could not reduce the Annual Subscription during the war as we no longer hold our two-days' excursion in the summer.

Coming to the work of the Society, the war has injuriously affected our work, partly owing to the disorganization caused by it, and partly to resignations caused chiefly by the war and in several cases tendered with the very greatest regret.

Among losses by death two stand out very prominently, viz., the Rev. J. A. Boodle and Mr. Giraud, both of whom, after lifelong connection with our Society, worked for it up to the very last, both dying as elected members of our Council and both being at their deaths Honorary Local Secretaries of their respective districts. To both your Society owes much, and has already expressed to their relatives its very keenest feeling of loss at their recent deaths.

The war has also stopped for the time the exceedingly interesting work—interesting not only to the county of Kent, but to the nation and empire at large (a Canadian officer is taking the greatest interest in the excavations)—carried on so heartily by the Authorities at St. Augustine's. Perhaps I may particularly mention the name of the Rev. R. U. Potts, Sub-Warden, who is entitled to our profound gratitude for what has been accomplished. The serious question presenting itself to us, about which the less said the better at present, is caused by the site belonging to different owners, which prevents the excavation of the whole of the site of the original church. We have reason to believe that our next volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* will contain an account of St. Augustine's by Sir W. St. John Hope.

Mr. Elliston Erwood, when lecturing at Maidstone last March, strongly urged the formation by the Society after the war of an Excavation Branch, to be limited to some thirty or forty members, all to be workers, and to agree to work under proper supervision. A similar Society has, he informed us, done good work in Essex. The matter is under consideration by the Council.

It is hardly necessary for me again to urge upon all to do their utmost to help the Society through the very difficult times it and kindred societies are now passing through. Every endeavour should be made to retain present members and as far as possible obtain new ones. It is no longer so much a question of increasing our number as of endeavouring to prevent a fall.

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## OBITUARY NOTICES.

FRANCIS FREDERIC GIRAUD.

By the death of Mr. Giraud at the ripe age of eighty-four our Society loses a member who did yeoman service for Archæology in East Kent for more than half a century. He was, we believe, the sole survivor of that original band of Archæologists which rallied to the call of J. Lambert Larking when that gentleman founded the Kent Archæological Society in 1858. In the following year he became Hon. Local Secretary for the Faversham district, an office which he retained to the time of his death, discharging its duties with exemplary punctuality for a period of fifty-six years. He was also for forty-two years a Member of the Council and a regular attendant at its Quarterly Meetings, as well as at the Annual Excursions held in the summer.

Descended from a Huguenot stock which took root in Faversham soon after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685) and remained there ever since, the subject of the present memoir became Town Clerk of Faversham in 1870, and for thirty-two years continued to serve in that capacity. On his retirement in 1902 the Municipal Authorities marked their appreciation of his services to the town by presenting him with Freedom of the Borough, an honour, we believe, unique in the history of Faversham.

During his long tenure of office as custodian of the municipal archives, Mr. Giraud, who was a competent Latin and French scholar, made himself thoroughly conversant with the ancient records committed to his care, and of the more interesting documents he made transcripts or abstracts, many of which have been published in *Archæologia Cantiana*. In all there are, we believe, thirteen articles from the pen of Mr. Giraud in the pages of our Journal. In addition to these articles he compiled a Catalogue of the Books in the Library of the Free Grammar School in Faversham—many date from the sixteenth century—which was printed by order of the Trustees in 1865, and is a model of what a catalogue of such books should be. In 1876, with C. E. Donne, a former vicar of the parish, he brought out an excellent guide to the town and environs of Faversham, a work which unfortunately is now somewhat scarce. He also wrote a *History of Freemasonry in Faversham from 1763 to 1899*, compiled from the Minutes of the Lodge, of which he had been a member for fifty years.

Mr. Giraud was of a modest and retiring disposition: he sought no notoriety outside his native town, hence, perhaps, he was little known to the majority of our more recent members. But those who had the privilege of his acquaintance know that he was a man of sterling worth, and the Council of the Society will greatly miss the sound judgment, good taste and unfailing courtesy for which the late F. F. Giraud was conspicuous.

C. E. W.

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THE REV. J. A. BOODLE.

ON December 2nd, 1915, the Rev. John Adolphus Boodle passed away at his residence, Tudor House, West Malling, at the age of 78 years. Educated at Marlborough and St. John's College, Cambridge, where he took the following honours, 1st Class in the Theological Tripos, 2nd Class in the Classical Tripos and 3rd Class in the Mathematical Tripos, he was ordained Deacon in 1859 and Priest in 1861 by the Bishop of Oxford. After being curate at Buckingham for two years and a tutor at St. Columba's College, Ireland, for five years, he became Curate of West Malling in 1867. Very shortly afterwards he joined the Kent Archæological Society, in the welfare of which he never ceased to take the greatest interest. In 1879 he was elected a member of the Council, and remained a member until his death. Whilst an undergraduate at Cambridge he began to study brasses, and it was only after his death that one fully realized by the numerous notes in his books on this subject how thorough his work had been, not only in Kent but in other counties also. His fine collection of rubbings he presented a few years since to the Beane Institute at Canterbury. In 1874 the Archbishop appointed him Diocesan Inspector of Schools for the Diocese of Canterbury, in connection with which his visits to the different parishes enabled him to record several brasses that had not previously been noted, and he was also able to render very valuable assistance in many cases where no returns were made to the Society's appeal for an inventory of the church plate throughout the county. He transcribed the *Registers of Boughton-under-Blean* from 1558 to 1626, which were published by the Parish Registers Society, 1903, and to Vol. XXI. of *Archæologia Cantiana* he contributed a Paper on "Boughton-under-the-Blean." Shortly after the death of his wife (the eldest daughter of the late

Rev. J. H. Timins, Vicar of West Malling, an original member of this Society) in 1908 he resigned the living of Boughton-under-Blean, to which he had been appointed in 1887 by the Archbishop, and retired to West Malling. He was Rural Dean of Ospringe from 1897 to 1906.

W. G. W.

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### BARHAM.

AN interesting discovery has been made in the north transept of this church, said by Hasted to be St. Giles' Chapel. It belongs to Barham Court, and when the rest of the church was drastically restored some years ago the then owner of the Court refused to allow any alteration to be made in the mean deal seating with which it was filled, underneath which was the Dering vault. The Court has now passed by purchase to Mr. Stainton. He has allowed the organ to be moved into it. It was known from Hasted that there were in his time brasses in this transept, and amongst Fisher's drawings in the British Museum is a drawing of one. It was uncertain whether they were under the seats or not, so Mr. Stainton took the opportunity when the work of fixing the organ was proceeding to direct a thorough search to be made on the floor to see if any brasses remained. The search was rewarded by the discovery of the brass, drawn by Fisher, and also of the remains of a large figure of a civilian.

The latter is somewhat damaged and the head has gone, but it is of early date, *circa* 1375, and of extreme interest. No figure of the same date and style is remaining in Kent, and it is a notable addition to the fine series in the county.

The other brass consists of a man in armour and his widow, and both the effigies are in good preservation and afford points of detail of interest. It was suggested by the Editor of *Fisher's Drawings*, recently published, that it might be for John Digges, Sheriff 1464 (4 Edw. IV.), and his widow, but a careful examination of the details of the armour would well warrant the assignment of a somewhat earlier date. The widow's effigy is very like the fine figure of Agnes Molyngton, 1454, still remaining at Dartford. The inscriptions and shields of arms are missing, and it is vexing that

the only part of the effigy of the male figure which is wanting is part of the crest of the helmet on which his head rests. If that had been there it would have afforded a certain guide to the correct ascription of the brass. Luckily, however, part of the crest remains, consisting of expanded dragon's wings.

In Dr. F. W. Cock's valuable *Philipot MS. Church Notes* is drawn a dragon's head between wings expanded, and this is expressly noted as the crest of the Digges. It is then almost certain that one, and possible that both the brasses are for members of the Digges family, who began buying property in the neighbourhood as early as *temp.* Hen. III.

As the slats had to be covered again, the brasses were removed from the floor and are now mural in the transept.

R. G.

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No Congress of the Associated Archæological Societies was held in 1916. Although the printing of the Indexes for 1911-12 is deferred until the next Congress takes place, the Annual Report of the Committee on Ancient Earthworks will be issued for 1915-16, as usual.