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ANNUAL REPORT

AND

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR 1949

The Kent Archaeological Society

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949

THE Council present to members their ninety-first Report, together with the Accounts for 1949. Over 140 new members have been elected during the past year, and the total membership now stands at just over 1,100. The Council are much indebted to those members whose efforts have been so successful in interesting their friends in the work of the Society. It is sincerely hoped they will not relax their efforts in the coming year, particularly in view of the unavoidable increase in subscriptions payable by new members.

It is with deepest regret that the Council record the loss of the Rev. Canon R. U. Potts, F.S.A., Sir Charles Igglesden, D.L., F.S.A., and Mr. J. H. Bolton. For over thirty years Canon Potts was a valued member of the Council and a scholarly contributor to *Archæologia Cantiana*. Mr. Bolton as Secretary for the Rochester district and also latterly a member of the Council was also keenly interested in archaeological work. Sir Charles Igglesden, who was a member of the Society for fifty years, will long be remembered not only as one of our leading antiquarians and local historians, but also for the thirty-five illustrated volumes which he published himself of his *Saunters through Kent*.

At the General Meeting in April the President, Major Teichman Derville, made his customary survey of recent events, dealing briefly with the membership figures, the finances of the Society, the earlier appearance of the current volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*, the Excursion Meetings, and last, but far from least, the very successful lunch held on 20th April to commemorate the landing of the English-speaking peoples in Kent in A.D. 449. Further reference is made to this subject below.

At the afternoon meeting Mr. Rupert Gunnis lectured on "English Monumental Sculpture" with epidiascope illustrations, and aroused the keen interest of members by his treatment of his subject. Mr. R. F. Jessup followed with a brief talk on the Society's Jutish relics and described the collection displayed in the gallery adjoining the lecture room. Hearty thanks were expressed to both speakers and also to the Curator and his staff for the arrangement of the exhibits.

The Accounts for 1949 reflect the financial stresses which cause anxiety to all learned societies at the present time. The greater part of the excess of expenditure over income is accounted for by an exceptional grant towards the cost of large-scale excavations in Canterbury—work that called for some urgency before rebuilding on the bombed area prevented further excavations.

The cost of the new volume of *Archæologia Cantiana* has been kept within bounds only by the omission of several important papers, including a report on the Canterbury excavations. The Council regret that such

action, dictated by circumstances, should have had to be taken, and hope that opportunities may be found for publication in later volumes of some or all of the omitted contributions.

The following additions, by gift or purchase, were made during the year to the Library and Collections :

Maiden Castle, by Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler (Report of Research Committee of Soc. Antiq., London, xii), 1943. Gift of A. Franks. *Notes on the History of Ashurst, Kent*. Gift of author, the Rev. A. C. White. Records of Wye College Archæological Society, No. 1, *The Statutes of Wye College*. Gift of Wye College Archæological Society. *John Kempe of Olantigh*, by Mrs. Dorothy Gardiner. Gift of Wye Historical Society. Wye College Archæological Society—Exhibition of Antique Silver, June, 1948. Gift of Wye College Archæological Society. *The Medieval Painted Glass of West Wickham, Kent*, by C. R. Counce, F.S.A. (Offprint from Journal of the British Society of Master Glass-Painters, x, No. 2.) Gift of author. Plans, printed matter and notes concerning Eynsford Castle, collected by the late E. Reginald Taylor, Esq. Gift of Miss S. May Taylor. 17 prints and 17 negatives of Kent Churches from Gough MSS. in Bodleian Library, Oxford. Purchased. *The Meare Lake Village*, by Bulleid and St. George Gray (Vol. 1). Purchased. *Wye—The Journal of the Wye College Association*, Vol. I, No. 2 (1949). Gift of Wye College Association. *The Hundred of Hoo*, by Ralph Arnold. Gift of Francis H. Day, F.S.A.

No publication by the Records Branch took place during the year. The Branch's publishing activities are inevitably limited, in that income has remained stationary, whilst printing, paper and binding costs have increased threefold since 1939. Discussions are taking place in the hope that it may be possible to bring about some rearrangement which will enable publication to be undertaken more actively in the near future. Any such possibility will, of course, depend upon the number of people willing to support the publication of Kent records; it is to be hoped that the number will be consonant with the importance of the county's position in the history of the country.

Five Excursions were held during the year, to the Sittingbourne, West Malling, Tenterden, Bromley and Tonbridge districts. The arrangements were considerably facilitated by the invaluable help given by the local secretaries of those areas, and the thanks of the Society are due to them for their co-operation.

In all about 425 tickets for members and visitors were issued for these occasions which were, with the exception of the morning session of the Malling meeting, favoured with fine weather. The Tunbridge Wells meeting was exceptionally popular, the total number of people present being nearly twice as many as at the Malling excursion which was itself well attended and one that really indicates the convenient limit for these assemblies, i.e. between 80 and 90 persons. The problem of dealing with larger groups is a difficult one, not only from the point of getting the members quickly from place to place but from the ability of speakers to make themselves heard. Among those who contributed to the success of these meetings were the persons who so generously threw open their houses for inspection, including the Lady Abbess of Malling, D. J. Finlay, Esq. of Westwell, Tenterden, Major John Robson of Hales Place, Squadron-Leader P. H. Shaw of Belgar, W. H. Daines, Esq. of Horne's Place, Appledore, The Lady Stanley of Holwood, Sir Arthur Keith, Mrs. Piercy Fox, A. Martin Tucker, Esq. of Old Buckhurst and Lord Knollys of Bolebroke. Without the kindness conferred by these ladies and gentlemen

the visits would have lost the greater part of their appeal. Nor must mention be omitted of the generous hospitality of the High Sheriff of Kent, F. W. Chamberlain, Esq., of West Wickham, who entertained members to tea when they visited his neighbourhood.

The fact that the excursion fund was able to make a considerable donation to the funds of the parent Society is mainly due to this entertainment, for members had already been charged for this part of the day's proceedings but they were unanimous that the money should not be returned but passed on. Apart from this the excursions made about £11 profit, equal to only about sixpence per ticket.

Some fifty members attended an enjoyable residential meeting at the Y.M.C.A. College for Adults, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, during the week-end 6th to 8th May, 1949. The subject of the conference was Georgian Kent, and interesting papers were read by Miss Anne Roper, M.B.E., F.S.A., Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood, F.S.A., Mr. Richard Stone, B.A., Mr. R. W. Paine, A.R.C.A., A.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Frank Jessup, F.S.A. The meeting was so successful that it was decided to arrange another week-end meeting at Kingsgate from 5th to 7th May, 1950, on Elizabethan Kent.

Reports by local Secretaries and others, necessarily condensed for the purposes of this Report, bear witness to archaeological activity in many directions.

Mr. E. C. H. Jones, F.R.A.I., states that an occupation site of the early mesolithic period has been discovered on sandy soil on Well Hill, a ridge of the North Downs near Chelsfield. It is being excavated by members of the Orpington Historical and Record Society under the general supervision of Mr. W. F. Grimes, F.S.A.

Mr. W. P. D. Stebbing reports that besides the opening up of a Bronze Age burial site with food vessels, behind his house at Fiveways, Upper Deal, a boy, digging in his garden on Mill Hill, Deal, unearthed a small black pottery head of Hercules, which is to be kept at Deal.

The following discoveries have been reported by the Curator of Maidstone Museum :

A polished flint celt of Neolithic or Bronze Age date has been found at No. 67 Quarry Road, Maidstone. It has been presented to Maidstone Museum by the finder, Master Charles Wallace.

An iron Woodman's Axe of medieval date has been dug up near Barming Bridge. It is at present on loan to Maidstone Museum.

An aureus of Nero (Mattingly and Sydenham *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, Vol. I (1923), p. 148, No. 44) :

Obv : NERO . CAESAR . AUGUSTUS

Rev : I ANVM . CLVSIT . PACE . P . R . TERRA

MARIQ . PARTA

Closed door of temple of Janus

PLATE X No. 153,

has been found on the estate of Brigadier Harker at Sutton Valence.

The coroner's inquest found that the coin was not "Treasure Trove" so it becomes the possession of the finder, Mr. E. C. Wood.

Mr. John H. Evans, F.S.A., reports the following discoveries :

Mr. Alban Gunyon, of the Old Vicarage Cottage, Boley Hill, Rochester, recently invited Mr. E. Lawrence Nichol and Mr. Evans to inspect a wall painting which he had uncovered in his house. They found that two sections of distemper painting had been exposed on the plaster wall of an upper room, the sections extending from the ceiling to about half-way to

the floor. The painting consists of a repeated design of floral and conventional ornament carried out in panels, each of which was about 17 ins. by 13 ins. Each panel is outlined with a thin red line, the filling being yellow, and containing an oval medallion in which is painted a nosegay of flowers; around the medallion, and filling the panel, is a geometric strap-work design in black. The painting belongs to the second half of the sixteenth century; it is less elaborate than a similar example found at No. 166 High Street, in 1907 (*Arch. Cant.*, XXVIII, xcvi) and is much nearer in design, although not in execution, to the painted panels in Longley House (top example, *Arch. Cant.*, XLI, 135). The black strap-work seems to be better executed than the nosegays, which are very roughly done; but the whole painting appears to indicate that tendency to careless and coarse work which has been noted by Mr. Francis W. Reader (*Arch. Journ.*, XCIII, 238).

The Old Vicarage with the adjoining Old Hall and Old Priory form one large Elizabethan mansion, and it stands close to, and once apparently adjoined the so-called "Satis House", which was occupied in 1560 by Richard Watts, and in which he entertained Queen Elizabeth in 1573.

Mr. Nichol has made a coloured full-size drawing of one half-panel of this painting which may be borrowed by anyone who is particularly interested in Tudor Wall Paintings.

By the courtesy of Mr. Gunyon, Messrs. Nichol and Evans were also enabled to inspect the thirteenth century undercroft beneath the front part of the Old Vicarage. This has been noted by the Rev. Canon S. W. Wheatley, F.S.A., in *Arch. Cant.*, XLI, 139. There can be little doubt that it was connected with the enclosure of Boley Hill, t. Henry III, 1221-27, and was probably the crypt of a tower.

The row of small, late Georgian houses which lined the East bank of the Castle Ditch towards Boley Hill are now almost completely demolished. When the cellars are emptied of rubbish the City Surveyor (Col. W. Law, M.I.C.E.) has promised facilities for inspection. It is intended to try to establish, by probing, the exact line of the Roman Wall between the South (Roman) Gate and the Drum Tower of the Castle. It is understood that the area so cleared is to be left as an open space or laid out as a public garden.

Mr. A. Cumberland, reporting for the Dartford area, states that the chief event of the year in the district was the successful Exhibition of Local History organized by the Dartford District Antiquarian Society. *The Times* newspaper commended the Stone Age section with the casts of the Swanscombe skull and the Saxon representation with the important finds in the Saxon cemetery excavated at Horton Kirby, 1937-8. The Medieval section revealed that the local churches, though not outstanding architecturally, had a wealth of medieval craftsmanship. The organizers produced an interesting handbook to explain the significance of the six periods chosen for sections of the Exhibition.

Miss Fleet, of Sutton-at-Hone, lent a fine Roman amphora in perfect condition. It was dug up in Darenth Vicarage garden in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The garden is situated near the Roman villa at Darenth.

The Dartford Society also carried out its normal full programme of lectures and visits to places of interest.

Excavation has been proceeding during the past season of a Roman building on the banks of the stream at Springhead, Dynes Road, Kemsing. So far, floors of three rooms have been disclosed, two of which retain evidence of hypocaust heating. Under a fourth floor, not yet excavated,

complete "pilae" are still *in situ*. Pottery sherds are very fragmentary but indicate first to fourth century and medieval occupation. Coins of Tetricus I and Allectus have been found and a quantity of decorated plaster and some fragments of glass. The work is being carried out by Messrs. Charles H. Brett and L. Chandler who discovered the site at Christmas, 1948.

Mr. N. E. Toke records the finding, some years ago, by Mr. J. N. T. Vachell and himself, on the high ground East of Elham railway station, near Folkestone, of a large number of neolithic implements of all kinds. Mr. Vachell's collection is now in Folkestone Museum.

The Canterbury excavations during August and September, 1949, "resulted in a part of the street plan of Roman Canterbury being recovered for the first time". This important discovery needs fuller treatment than is possible in this Report.

Excavations in the Market Square, Dover, have resulted in the finding (*inter alia*) of the south wall of a Roman building of which a Roman bath, said to have been found when the cellars of the Carlton Club were being excavated, may have formed part. Digging has also taken place at the junction of Snargate Street and Five Post Lane, on the site of Roman buildings, but as the work was mainly exploratory and further excavation is contemplated, a fuller report may usefully await the results of later activity.

The Ashford Archaeological Society has continued to be active on the lines mentioned in the Report for 1948. The proposed work on the history of Ashford, though still in its early stages, is proceeding, lectures and excursions have been held, and also a successful Local History Exhibition—organized with the co-operation of other local societies.

Mrs. V. F. Desborough, reporting for the Tunbridge Wells district, has described visits to various places of interest that seem to have been much appreciated by the participants. Such activities evidence the popular appeal of archaeology which has become so widespread since the close of the war.

Miss Roper, Vice-Chairman of the County Local History Committee, reports a much increased interest in local history throughout the County engendered by the three successful exhibitions, at Ashford, Bromley and Dartford. More than 2,000 people visited the Bromley Exhibition in three days. These exhibitions have done much to create personal interest and enthusiasm in local archaeology and history and have been a valuable step forward in the life of the community, restoring a sense of oneness and continuity in village life.

At the request of the Standing Conference for Local History, much work has been done in collecting information about guides to places of historic interest in the County, in an effort to improve the standard. Steps have also been taken to improve the standard of written guides in churches, and all Rural Deans have been informed of the expert help available from the County Committee in compiling such publications.

The official Anglo-Danish luncheon arranged by the Society to commemorate the fifteen hundredth anniversary of the coming of the Jutes to Kent proved such a success, that later in the summer, a replica of a Danish long-ship, specially built in Denmark, was rowed across the North Sea by 48 intrepid Danish oarsmen dressed as fifth century Jutes.

Historic landings were enacted at Broadstairs and Ramsgate and visits made to London and other ports. Both the ship *Hugin* and her crew

caught the popular fancy to such an extent that everywhere they went they were enthusiastically received by authorities and populace alike.

The promoters in both countries are to be congratulated on the success of their venture which has indirectly contributed in no small measure to cementing the bonds of common ancestry and warm friendship between the two nations.

The Council commend to the notice of members the newly-formed "Association of Friends of Kent Village Churches", whose object is to bind together all who care for the village churches of Kent and desire to take some part in stimulating interest in their history and maintaining their fabric. There is a minimum annual subscription for individuals of 5s. which should be remitted by enrolling members to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. E. S. Capey, National Provincial Bank, Maidstone).

The Council again urge members to send their subscriptions promptly to the Collector, Mr. C. W. Hopper, 14 Nunnery Road, Canterbury, and to continue their efforts to introduce new members.

They would also bring to the notice of members the advantage accruing to the Society from the contributions of members who have signed undertakings to continue payment of their subscriptions for a period of seven years, such undertakings automatically lapsing in the event of death.

The effect of this method of payment is that it enables the Society to reclaim Income Tax paid on a gross sum equivalent to the net amount of the subscription, without adding anything to the amount paid by each member concerned.

New undertakings may be entered into by members at any time on forms obtainable from the Hon. General Secretary, and the Council trust that many more members will decide to pay their subscriptions in this way.

By Order of the Council,

EDWARD HARRISON,

Hon. General Secretary.

14th March, 1950.