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Ancient Bridges

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the same writer which are only known, apparently, from the copies in the Corser library. These are *Theodori Bezae Epitaphia Selecta*, printed for John Barksdale at Cirencester, 1680, and *Epigrammata Sacra Selecta*, also printed for John Barksdale, 1682. The volume was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £70. The most interesting book of local interest was Thomas Dekker's Penny-Wise Povnd Foolish, Or, a Bristow Diamond, set in two Rings, and both Crack'd. Profitable for married men, pleasant for young men, and a rare example for all good Women. At London. Printed by A.M. for Edward Blackmore, and are to be sould in Pauls Churchyard, at the signe of the Angell. 1631.

The book has a woodcut frontispiece, with cuts of Venice, London and "Bristow." It is exceedingly rare, and appears to have escaped notice in several standard works of reference. A facsimile of the title is given in the illustrated copies of the sale catalogue. It was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £290.

Another rare book which has also gone to America is *Songs of Sion*, by William Loe (Hamburg, 1620,) of which the only other copy known is in the British Museum, though, like the Britwell copy, it is not perfect. William Loe was Vicar of Churcham, Glos., about 1598, master of the College School, Gloucester, 1600, and prebendary of the Cathedral, 1602. The book was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £100.

A copy of "More Strange Newes : of wonderful accidents...in Summerset-shire, Gloucestershire....&c." recorded in the *Manual of Gloucestershire Literature*, i, 99, was sold for £30. Another tract, not noticed in the Manual, probably owing to it being wholly of Welsh interest except for the name of our county on the title was sold for £29, and is entitled:—

The Welch Plunderer, or her sore lamentation and perplexity hearing of P. Roberts pillaging and plundering in Gloucestershire, and fearing his approach unto Wales, her is resolved to prevent her comming by a cunning stratagem. 1643.

ANCIENT BRIDGES.

The care of Ancient Bridges is receiving much attention owing to the demands of modern traffic necessitating wider roadways, and the public interest aroused by the proposals for widening the historic bridge of Clopton at Stratford-on-Avon. Both the Office of Works and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings have issued questionnaires to archaeological and architectural societies, asking for information of ancient bridges in their respec-

tive areas in order, if proposals concerning reconstruction are made, that particulars of their historic interest may be ready. The observations of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Gosling) when receiving a deputation in regard to Clopton Bridge have no doubt suggested the usefulness of this information being scheduled. In his reply to the deputation Mr. Gosling pointed out that in this particular case the representations made were too late, and he urged that all buildings which it was considered desirable to preserve should be scheduled, and that the schedules should be deposited with the County Council concerned, the Office of Works, and the Ministry of Transport, so that when any such building was brought under discussion authorities might be warned of the attitude felt by societies concerned with its preservation.

Much can no doubt be done by Archæological Societies but a far more complete knowledge of the various bridges is surely possessed by the County Surveyor, who through his district surveyors, must, or can be, in full possession of the information required. In the case of Gloucestershire an inquiry has already been set on foot by the County Surveyor, Colonel E. S. Sinnott, who has every sympathy with the views expressed by the various bodies concerned in this matter and is prepared to receive any information as to bridges which appear to deserve consideration before alterations are undertaken. In one case, that of the bridge over the Avon at Clifford Chambers, he has inquired of our Society whether the bridge has any archæological interest as there are proposals for its widening in consequence of the danger which its narrow roadway presents to traffic.

Members of our Society will do service by giving attention to this matter and communicating with the Hon. General Secretary if they consider any bridge in their district should be scheduled.

COUNTY MUNIMENTS.

The importance of the proper preservation of local records is receiving attention, though even now more might be done in this direction. To those concerned with their custody, and to all interested in local history, may be commended "*The Care of County Muniments*," by G. Herbert Fowler, C.B.E., F.R. Hist. Soc., F.L.S., published (1923, 3s. 6d.) by the County Councils Association at 84 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Mr. Fowler, Chairman of the County Records Committee of the Bedfordshire County Council, with the experience gained by the systematic arrangement of his own county muniments, gives the benefit of advice in the difficulties which present themselves in