

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **Society Pages**

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY  
 AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING  
 17, 18, 19 *September* 1929

The usual dates for holding the annual meeting were altered in order to suit the convenience of the President-elect, but the later time of year did not affect the attendance and owing to the attractive nature of the programme a very large number of tickets were issued. The annual business meeting was held on Tuesday, 17 September, at the Guildhall, GLOUCESTER.

The retiring President, Mr GORDON MCNEIL RUSHFORTH, M.A., F.S.A, took the chair, and a considerable number of members were present.

The report of the Council for the year 1928-29 was read by the general secretary, Mr H. Stratton Davis.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1928-29  
 (September 1929)

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*Membership*

The membership of the Society is now 699, a decrease of 31 since the last annual meeting. During the year (1928-29) 31 members have been elected, including 3 life members, 28 have died, and 34 have resigned. There are now 4 honorary members, 62 life members, 590 subscribing members, and 43 subscribing libraries and institutions.

*Obituary*

The Council have to record, with deep regret, the deaths of an unusual number of members of the Society, of whom 7 were life members, during the past year. Among them were Sir Francis Hyde Crawley-Boevey, Bart., who was president in 1922-23; Charles Edward Keyser, M.A., F.S.A., president in

1914-15 and 1915-16; Canon S. C. Armour, D.D., member of Council; Sir Arthur Anstice; Baron C. A. de Cosson, the great authority on armour; Arthur W. Page; Rev. Charles Swynnerton, F.S.A., and Sir G. A. Wills, Bart.

### *Finance*

The position of the Society continues to be satisfactory, the income for the year, £491 10s 5d, being approximately the same as in 1927. Subscriptions amounted to £391 12s, an increasing number of members paying the higher rate and thus compensating for the loss of income which the decrease in general membership would otherwise have brought about. Entrance fees £16 5s 6d; meetings' fund, £17 5s 10d; donations £2 11s 6d; interest on deposit account, £5 0s 4d; and dividends, £32 10s 0d, show little change, but the amount received from the sale of publications, £12 5s 3d, is considerably less. One life subscription of £15 was received. Total expenditure of £449 16s 5d was a great reduction on that of the previous year, which amounted to £526 12s 2d, a decrease more than accounted for by the cost of the *Transactions*—£340 10s 4d for volume 49 as against £411 17s 7d for volume 48. Payments for the library were £36 2s 3d, more books having been purchased. Miscellaneous payments, £46 18s 10d, show an increase of about £8, the appointment of new officers having entailed additional expenditure on stationery. The Society began the year with a balance in hand of £182 3s 11d, and carries forward to 1929 a balance of £223 17s 11d. The balance sheet shows a surplus of assets over liabilities of £974 14s 11d, exclusive of the libraries, which are not valued; an eminently satisfactory position.

### *Transactions*

Volume 50, recording the proceedings of the Society in 1928, was published in June 1929 and fully maintains the high standard of previous volumes. Mr Roland Austin, Editor of the *Transactions*, has in preparation a general index to volumes 41 to 50, which he hopes to complete for issue in 1930.

### *General Meetings*

A very successful Summer meeting was held in Stroud during July 1928. A report of the proceedings was printed in volume 50 of the *Transactions*.

The Spring meeting of 1929 was held on 27 May, when Charfield, Yate, Chipping Sodbury and Dyrham were visited. This meeting

was well attended, and the warmest thanks of the members are due to Mr Thomas Overbury for his excellent organization. The interest of these meetings has been greatly increased by the presence and valuable guidance of the President of the Society, Mr G. McN. Rushforth, F.S.A., whose services in that respect have been much appreciated by members.

### *Evening Meetings at Bristol*

The Hon. Secretary for Bristol, Lt.-Col. T. M. Carter, arranged an attractive series of evening meetings in Bristol during the winter. The following papers were read :—

November 1928. The Story of Dauntsey in Wiltshire. By the President, G. McN. Rushforth, M.A., F.S.A.

December 1928. Kingsdown Camp, and some recent archaeological discoveries in Somerset. By Mr H. St. George Gray.

January 1929. Old English and French road Books. By Sir H. George Fordham.

February 1929. The Fair and Court of St. James, Bristol. By Miss M. Dermott Harding, B.A.

March 1929. Chairs found in Churches. By Prof. E. Fawcett, F.R.S.

Additional Scratch dials in Gloucestershire. By Mrs D. P. Dobson, M.A.

The Council desire to express their thanks to the Bristol 'Savages' for again lending the Red Lodge for these meetings, the interest in which continues to be well maintained.

At the October meeting of the Council it was announced that Mr Wilfrid Leighton wished to be relieved of his duties as Hon. Secretary for Bristol and Lt.-Col. T. M. Carter, O.B.E., M.D., was unanimously elected to the office. The Council wish to place on record the thanks and appreciation of the Society to Mr Leighton for his services as Hon. Secretary for Bristol since 1918.

### *The Archaeological Trust*

The formation of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Trust, referred to in the last report, has been successfully accomplished during the year, and full particulars have been printed in the *Transactions*. The first property to be accepted by the Trust is Arlington Row, Bibury, and a local Committee of Management has been appointed.

The establishment of the Trust has been supported by only a

small proportion of the members of the Society, and it is very desirable that a larger membership shall be enrolled if its operations are to be satisfactorily extended and maintained. It is hoped, therefore, that many more members of the Society will join the Trust.

### *Council Meetings*

The usual quarterly meetings of the Council have been held and useful and interesting work has been accomplished. The question of preparing an authentic record of the church plate of the City of Bristol has again received consideration. It will be remembered that in 1906, under the editorship of the Rev. J. T. Evans, F.S.A., rector of Stow on the Wold, the Council published 'The Church Plate of Gloucestershire'. Its preparation occupied considerable time, the necessary information having been collected for two-thirds of the 367 ecclesiastical parishes in the County by members of the Society, and for the remaining third by the Editor. Copies of the volume are still obtainable from the Society. Shortly after its publication the late Mr Robert Hall Warren and the late Mr Alfred E. Hudd commenced the collection of information as to the plate in the churches within the City of Bristol, and particulars of about 30 of the 90 churches came into the possession of the late Rev. C. S. Taylor, and later of Mr J. E. Pritchard. These schedules are still available, and it has for some time been felt very desirable that the work should be brought to completion. With this object the Council during the current year appointed a committee to ascertain what could be done. It is a satisfaction to the Council to be now in a position to report that the Rev. Canon R. T. Cole, rector of Christchurch and rural dean of Bristol, has undertaken to be responsible for checking and revising the particulars already prepared, and collecting information for the remaining churches. This must obviously occupy some considerable time, and meanwhile the question of publication must remain for future consideration.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the circumstances under which the Christening Bowl at Dowdeswell church was disposed of, with a view to ascertaining if its recovery for the church is possible.

Matters connected with Hales abbey, Shipton Oliffe and Ampney Crucis churches, the Long Stone at Minchinhampton, and the Cheltenham Town Planning Act, have been considered and action taken where necessary.

Under the auspices of the Society, excavations at Belas Knap have been undertaken by Sir James Berry, F.S.A. Sir James, who

had intended to spend three weeks at Belas Knap, actually stayed for seven weeks and accomplished a considerable amount of valuable work. The centre portion of the mound has been opened up and has been properly strutted and protected. Excavations on the west side have thrown valuable light on the construction and arrangement of the barrow and it is hoped that further investigation may be possible next year.

Full particulars cannot be given at present, as the Council have not yet received a detailed report of the work.

### *Council and Officers*

The Council regret that the Rev. F. W. D. Curtoys has found it necessary to resign the post of local secretary for Berkeley as he has left the county. The thanks of the Society are due to him for the useful work he has done.

The Council present their nominations for office as vice-presidents, local secretaries, members of Council and executive officers for the year 1929-30.

The Chairman of Council (Mr J. J. Simpson) in moving the adoption of the report said that he thought it showed that the Society continued to be an active association and that good work had been accomplished during the year.

The retiring President proposed the election of the Rt. Hon. Lord Bledisloe, P.C., K.B.E., as President of the Society for the ensuing year. He said that from time to time the Society had had for Presidents various kinds of people—eminent antiquaries, university professors, men of prominence in the county, and even some, like himself, who were strangers to the county inasmuch as they did not reside in it. He was quite sincere when he said that in the list of Presidents there was hardly anyone who had better qualifications than Lord Bledisloe. His national service in the cause of Agriculture, with which Gloucestershire was so closely concerned, and his association with the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, of which he was a distinguished alumnus, might be mentioned. In addition he had the good fortune to possess a property of remarkable antiquarian interest which had been the

subject of investigation by his ancestors more than 100 years ago. Lord Bledisloe was continuing their example by pursuing the investigation of the site under the best conditions of guidance. There was no more suitable person to fill the office of President of their Society.

Mr John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting and carried with much enthusiasm.

Lord Bledisloe, in taking the Chair, said he felt embarrassed by the all too laudatory terms in which his name had been submitted to the meeting for it was a very high honour to fill the office as their President and he could not profess to claim the qualifications which the work of the Society justified. He congratulated the Society on the membership and the satisfactory condition of the finances, and in looking back to earlier years he recalled the work of Canon Bazeley, whose services it was impossible to over-estimate. The Society had done most useful work by the issue of the *Transactions*, in which were recorded and collated the treasures of the county. In reference to the present meeting he made bold to suggest that the district of some 25 miles round Lydney, had, as a centre, no parallel for its antiquarian wealth. This was one of the many reasons which had led him to have the temerity to suggest to the Government of the day that the Forest of Dean should be made into a National Park, a proposal which was being taken up in such influential quarters that he had some reason to believe that it might crystallize, not only to the advantage of the wild life of the country, but also to the advantage of its urban inhabitants.

Mr Roland Austin, F.S.A., Editor of *Transactions*, moved that a very warm vote of thanks be accorded to Mr G. McNeil Rushforth, F.S.A., for his services to the Society during the past year. In doing so he said that nothing could give him greater pleasure, and he felt sure that the resolution would be received with equal pleasure by everyone present. For two successive years

Mr Rushforth had given them unstinted service, and from personal knowledge, and knowledge derived from the history of the Society, he could say that none had given so freely or entered into the actual work of the Society with such zest. Mr Rushforth's learning, his genial manner, and the interest with which he invested their meetings, were evident to everyone who came in contact with him. It was really difficult to explain their sense of gratitude, though perhaps that could not be shown better than to express the hope that he would continue to give them the benefit of his presence and knowledge.

In returning thanks Mr Rushforth said that he believed the kind references made to him were quite sincere and therefore he valued them. It had always been his endeavour to make their meetings intelligible, which he considered was the greatest power which the antiquary possessed. He hoped to continue to help the Society so far as he could. His position had been made very pleasant by the constant assistance of those who were closely concerned with the Society and to whom he owed so much.

THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

1928	RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	..	..					182	3	11
	LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS	..	..	..				15	0	0
	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS :—									
	1928 (586 at 10s 6d)	..			307	13	0			
	(58 at 21s)	..			60	18	0			
								368	11	0
	1929 (37 at 10s 6d)	..			19	8	6			
	(2 at 21s)	..			2	2	0			
								21	10	6
	1930 (1 at 10s 6d)	..			..	..	..	10	6	
								390	12	0
	ENTRANCE FEES :—									
	1928 (29)	..	..	..	15	4	6			
	1929 (2, in advance)	..	..	..	1	1	0			
								16	5	6
	DONATIONS :—									
	Merchant Venturers	..	..	..	2	2	0			
	Mrs Bowly	..	..	..	..	9	6			
								2	11	6
	MEETINGS ACCOUNT	..	..	..				17	5	10
	DIVIDENDS	..	..	..				32	10	0
	INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	..	..	..				5	0	4
	SALE OF PUBLICATIONS	..	..	..				12	5	3
								673	14	4
	Audited and found correct,									
	12 January 1929				J. J. SIMPSON					

## BALANCE SHEET, 31

LIABILITIES					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE :—										
	1929	..	..	..	21	10	6			
	1930	..	..	..	..	10	6			
								22	1	0
	SURPLUS	..	..	..	..	..	..	976	16	11

£998 17 11

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1928

1928	PAYMENTS			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Transactions ;—</i>									
VOLUME 49 (1927)	..	..	..	340	10	4			
Editor	..	..	..	26	5	0			
				<hr/>			366	15	4
LIBRARY :—									
Subscriptions to Societies	..	..	..	7	1	9			
Books	..	..	..	19	14	3			
Rent	..	..	..	8	8	0			
Insurance	..	..	..	18	3				
				<hr/>			36	2	3
MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS :—									
Printing and stationery	..	..	..	29	5	6			
Postages	..	..	..	11	5	0			
Travelling expenses	..	..	..	2	2	7			
Archaeological Congress	..	..	..	1	0	0			
Room for Meetings, Gloucester, etc.	..	..	..	3	5	9			
				<hr/>			46	18	10
BALANCES :—									
Lloyds Bank : Deposit account	..	..	..	135	0	4			
Do. Current account	..	..	..	70	10	9			
Hon. Treasurer	..	..	..	1	1	0			
Meetings Secretary	..	..	..	17	5	10			
				<hr/>			223	17	11
				<hr/>			£673	14	4

## DECEMBER 1928

ASSETS			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
War Stock, £650, at par	..	..	..	..	..	650	0	0	
SAVINGS CERTIFICATE	..	..	..	..	..	125	0	0	
CASH AT BANK :—									
Deposit account	..	..	..	135	0	4			
Current account	..	..	..	70	10	9			
				<hr/>			205	11	1
CASH IN HAND :—									
Treasurer	..	..	..	1	1	0			
Meetings Secretary	..	..	..	17	5	10			
				<hr/>			18	6	10
				<hr/>			£998	17	11

The following nominations for office as vice-presidents, members of Council, local secretaries, and executive officers were submitted and approved.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS FOR 1929-30

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL : J. J. Simpson.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL : W. H. Knowles, F.S.A.

VICE-PRESIDENTS : W. St. Clair Baddeley, Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., G. Sheffield Blakeway, Dr A. C. Fryer, F.S.A., The Dean of Gloucester (Henry Gee), D.D., F.S.A., Sir F. A. Hyett, Lt.-Col. Russell J. Kerr, B.A., F. W. Waller, W. H. Knowles, F.S.A., Sir Charles Oman, M.P., F.S.A., John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., G. McN. Rushforth, M.A., F.S.A., E. C. Sewell, J. J. Simpson, A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (*for re-election*) : Rev. Canon C. O. Bartlett, M.A., Col. E. B. Jeune, Sir George Oatley, LL.D., F.R.I.B.A., T. Overbury, F.R.I.B.A., Cecil Powell.

(*For election*) : A. Baker, H. E. Foll, T. Hannam-Clark, C. Tollemache-Scott.

(*For election to fill vacancies to 1930*) : Col. A. B. Lloyd-Baker, D.S.O., Rev. W. M. Irwin, D.D., Miss I. M. Roper, F.L.S.

(*For election to fill vacancies to 1931*) : J. H. Arnold, G. C. Francis.

HON. EDITOR AND LIBRARIAN : Roland Austin, M.A., F.S.A.

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY : H. Stratton Davis, M.C., F.R.I.B.A.

HON. TREASURER : Wilfrid Leighton.

HON. SECRETARY FOR BRISTOL : Lt.-Col. T. M. Carter, O.B.E., M.D.

HON. SECRETARY FOR MEETINGS : Thomas Overbury, F.R.I.B.A.

## HON. LOCAL SECRETARIES :

*Berkeley* :

*Cheltenham* : Col. J. C. Duke.

*Cirencester* : E. C. Sewell.

*Dursley* : R. H. Penley, B.A.

*Fairford* : Canon R. C. S. Jones.

*Forest of Dean* }  
*Newent* } E. Conder, F.S.A.

*Stroud* : Rev. R. Jowett Burton.

*Tewkesbury* : F. W. Godfrey.

*Wotton-under-Edge* : H. Goldingham.

*Northern Districts* : E. A. B. Barnard, F.S.A.

## REPORT OF ITINERARY\*

*Tuesday, 17 September 1929*

After luncheon at the Bell Hotel, the coaches left for  
 LYDNEY PARK

where Members were received by the President and Lady Bledisloe. By great fortune they had the benefit of the guidance and knowledge of Dr R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, M.C., F.S.A., than whom there is no greater authority on Roman Britain. In collaboration with Lt.-Col. William Hawley, and by permission of Lord Bledisloe, he has conducted for the Society of Antiquaries of London the excavations carried out during the summers of 1928 and 1929. With Dr Wheeler was Mrs Mortimer Wheeler, F.S.A., who most kindly assisted in explaining the Roman remains.

Lydney Park has been visited by the Society on two previous occasions but on neither can its interest have been made so clear both by exposition and actual evidence. The earliest published communication relating to the camps took the form of a letter sent in 1777 by Major General Hayman Rooke to the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, which was printed in *Archæologia*, v, 207-8. The first detailed investigation of the site was made in 1805 by the Hon. Charles Bathurst, great-grandfather of Lord Bledisloe, primarily in order to determine the direction of some foundations of walls which had been accidentally discovered. The work was carried on for several years, careful notes being taken of the buildings, pavements, pottery and other objects found. These were

\* The Editor wishes to record how much he is indebted to Mr G. McN. Rushforth, F.S.A., for help in the preparation of this report.

eventually described in a memoir by the late Rev. William Hiley Bathurst, with drawings, and this, with additional notes by Mr C. W. King, of Trinity College, Cambridge, was published in 1879. A descriptive catalogue of the coins found was included. Mr Bathurst had read a communication on Lydney camp to the Society of Antiquaries, 2 March 1871.\*

The following notes on Lydney were kindly written for the meeting programme by Dr Wheeler.

Lord Bledisloe's very beautiful deer-park at Lydney contains two 'camps'. One occupies a small hill-top closely adjoining the house, and a larger one crowns a neighbouring promontory. The smaller is probably a ring-motte and bailey of the Norman period; the larger is a prehistoric 'camp' or fortified settlement, containing a temple and buildings added in the Roman period. This larger 'camp' has been submitted to excavation at various periods, notably about 1805 and, during 1928-9, by the Society of Antiquaries of London at Lord Bledisloe's invitation.

It is now known that the earthwork, which cuts off and fortifies the end of the promontory, was built about 100 B.C. and was fairly intensively occupied during the last century before the Roman conquest. Two original entrances can still be seen: the main entrance, with in-turned flanks, is cut into the rock at the western end of the promontory, whilst a subsidiary entrance occurs in the centre of the southern side. Brooches, pottery, etc., dating from the first centuries B.C. to A.D. have been found in some quantity, and slight traces of a timber structure of prehistoric date have also been uncovered near the main entrance.

During the earlier part of the Roman period the 'camp' was still slightly occupied, at least intermittently, but the

\* *Proceedings*, ser. 2, v, 96-101.

nature of this occupation has not yet been determined. It is now known, however, that the main period of Roman occupation falls within the latter half of the 4th century A.D., when a temple of very unusual plan was built near the western end of the promontory. This temple is unique in classical architecture by reason of the array of small chapels which project at intervals from its periphery and suggest nothing so much as the chapels of a Christian church. The deity to whom the temple was dedicated is known from inscriptions to have been named Nodens, but does not occur elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

In association with the temple was a large courtyard-building of residential type, used possibly as a hospice for visitors to the shrine. Near by also was a long range of small booths which may have been shops; whilst the whole group of buildings, which included also an elaborate set of baths, was enclosed by a precinct wall. The group as a whole is without parallel in Great Britain, but is somewhat similar to temple-groups which were built here and there upon the continent as places of pilgrimage and centres of religious and even secular administration.

Scarcely less interesting than the temple is the fact that, either late in the Roman period or more probably during the Dark Ages which followed it, the earthwork defences of the site were strengthened and enlarged to double their original magnitude. Post-Roman relics have not yet been found in any abundance, but include a 5th century bronze brooch. It is possible that further exploration will reveal more definite evidence of occupation during the 5th and 6th centuries A.D., and so will open up a new period in archaeology west of the Severn.

Taking up a position on the site of the Roman camp Dr Wheeler gave a general outline of the history of its

<sup>1</sup> Members will have noticed in the new volume of the Society's *Transactions* (1928, vol. 50, p. 103) Mr St. Clair Baddeley's interesting study of the deity in the light of local conditions.

occupation as a settlement, in the course of which he said that after the Roman invasion the site was still occupied by a native population engaged in iron mining, and pointed out what was probably the only example in Great Britain of an iron mine, exactly as the Romans left it. This mine was found to have been filled up in Roman times and the floor of a hut, occupied at the end of the 3rd century A.D., had been found above its entrance. Later again, within the last half century of the Roman occupation, the whole character of the settlement was changed. The mining village was swept away, and a series of elaborate buildings was erected upon the site. That group of buildings consisted of a temple, dedicated to the otherwise unknown god, Nodens.

The temple was of remarkable design, and was indeed unique in Europe as the earliest example of the systematic use of side-chapels in a religious building. One of those side-chapels retained its handsome mosaic pavement. The Lydney temple site might have been one of exceptional prestige amongst the religious centres of Roman Britain.

The life of the temple was perhaps short, but the history of the site did not close at the end of the Roman occupation. At some subsequent time when the local tribesmen had already forgotten part of the Roman civilization, and had to a large extent reverted to barbarism, the prehistoric earthwork, long disused, once more became a dominant feature of the hill-top. The ancient bank was enlarged by people who were no longer able to build after the Roman manner, but who might still have occupied the decaying Roman buildings. Their coinage retained some trace of Roman influence, but was reduced in size to such an extent that the smallest denomination was little larger than a pin head. A hoard of several thousand of these minute post-Roman coins was found during the present summer.

The excavations had shown how the local tribesmen, after emerging for a short space of time from barbarism,

had reached, under Roman influence, a high state of civilization, and had reverted again suddenly to the condition from which they began.

A tentative exploration of a smaller earthwork near the main site has revealed that there are remains of a stone-built castle of the 12th century.

Interesting reports on the results of the work done in 1928 and 1929 were communicated to *The Times* of 21 September 1928 and 15 November 1929.

Returning to Lydney Park members partook of tea in the garden. Before leaving for the 'Scowles' the President and Lady Bledisloe were most warmly thanked for their hospitality and for their kindness in receiving the members, who had every reason for long remembrance of the day. The President then led the way to

#### THE SCOWLES

The ancient iron-workings known as the 'Scowles', a mile northeast of Lydney Park, are the most elaborate and picturesque of the numerous examples which occur in various parts of the Forest of Dean. They are popularly ascribed to the Romans and may well be in part of that date. The iron-ore, found in veins and pockets of infiltrated brown hematite, has been extracted from the workings within living memory by means of quite primitive tools. An account of the workings is printed in Nicholls' *Iron-making in the Forest of Dean* (1866), pp. 2-7

#### WESTBURY COURT

Some of the party returned to Gloucester and on the way accepted the invitation of Sir Charles Allom to visit Westbury Court. From the middle of the 17th century the Court has been the property of the Colchester family. One of them, Sir Duncomb Colchester, was the builder of the house at Abbenhall referred to in Atkyns' *History of*

*Gloucestershire* (1712) as a 'neat new built House . . . called the Wilderness, which is situated on a high hill'. Atkyns gives a plate of the original Westbury Court, built in the time of Queen Elizabeth by one of the Baynhams, earlier owners of the manor of Westbury.

The gardens and the pavilion at the south end of the canal were the work of Maynard Colchester, who married in 1689 a daughter of Sir Edward Clark and whose arms, impaled with Clark, may be seen on the pavilion. The great interest of Westbury lies in the gardens, planned in the Dutch style probably by the Maynard Colchester of William III's time. The permission to see them was much appreciated, and on the last day of the meeting the remainder of the party also had an opportunity to visit them.

#### CHEPSTOW

#### Evening Meeting

The headquarters of the Society were at the Beaufort Arms Hotel, Chepstow, and as many Members were staying there and in the vicinity it was arranged to hold an evening meeting. Dr Mortimer Wheeler and Mr G. McN. Rushforth gave short addresses on various subjects which could not be conveniently dealt with during the expeditions. Mr Rushforth began by referring to the lead tablet in Lord Bledisloe's museum at Lydney Park, on which one Silvanus tells the God Nodens that he has lost a ring, offers a reward, and asks him not to grant restoration of health to Senecianus (whom he evidently suspects of being the thief) until he brings the ring to the temple. We may suppose that Senecianus was one of the many pilgrims who had come, or might come, to the shrine of the healing deity. About 1785 a gold ring was found at Silchester inscribed: *Seniciane vivas (i)n de(o)* ('O Senecianus may you live in God'!), which is now in the possession of Mr C. L. Chute, of The Vyne in Hampshire. On the discovery of the Lydney tablet long afterwards, it was

tempting to connect the two objects. The coincidence of name seems to have been pointed out first by the well-known antiquary, the Rev. J. G. Joyce; and a writer in our *Transactions* (vi, 1881-2, p. 77) triumphantly exclaimed—'the ring has been discovered'—a conclusion which was accepted by Mr Chaloner W. Chute in his *History of The Vyne*.<sup>2</sup> But the late Professor Haverfield, in a note which he contributed to our *Transactions* in 1888 (xiii, 203), pointed out that the date of the ring was clearly the 4th century A.D., *Vivas in Deo* being a common formula in Christian inscriptions. The lettering of the Lydney tablet, on the other hand, appeared to be of the 1st century, and even if the objects were contemporary, the difficulty remains that the ring bears the name, not of Silvianus, but of Senecianus, and that the latter seems to have received it as a gift from a friend Venus(ianus) or Venus(tus), whose head is engraved on the bezel. Dr Wheeler's statement, which they had heard that afternoon, that the recent excavations showed that the Lydney temple was late (4th cent. A.D.), might be thought to have improved the chances of the identification, especially as Mr R. G. Collingwood had recently expressed the opinion that the lettering of the lead tablet had no definite indications of date. But the difficulty mentioned above is not got over, and the occurrence of the name Senecianus (which, Prof. Haverfield remarked, is not an uncommon one) in both objects is probably a mere coincidence.

Mr Rushforth next discussed the origin of the Benedictine priory of Usk, no doubt founded by some of the early De Clares in the 12th century. We learn from the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535 that on Sherethursday (Maundy Thursday) the nuns prayed for the founders, viz. Sir Richard de Clare, Sir Gilbert his son, Earls of the Marches, Lady Elizabeth de Burgh, Countess of the Marches, Edmund [Mortimer], Earl of the Marches, and Richard

<sup>2</sup> The ring is figured in the book, and also in *Transactions*, vi, 78.

Duke of York.<sup>3</sup> This gives the descent of the lordship of Usk, but who are the first two, who must have been the original founders? A charter of Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, known as Strongbow, the conqueror of Ireland (d. 1176) confirmed all the gifts of his ancestors to Usk priory.<sup>4</sup> Therefore the Richard and Gilbert prayed for by the nuns were not his uncle and cousin, the ancestors of the line of the Earls of Hertford and Gloucester, but his great-grandfather Richard, who came to England with the Conqueror, and his son Gilbert (c. 1066-1115). The former of these is not mentioned in connexion with the Welsh frontier, but his son Gilbert was active in the district, and may have been the actual founder, his father contributing to the endowment, or having his name added by an act of filial piety. Neither of them was 'Earl of the Marches', but such incorrect and anachronistic titles occur in the later medieval records. Thus in the founders' window of Great Malvern priory church, Bernard of Neufmarché is described as Earl of Hereford, a dignity which was only conferred on his son-in-law, Miles of Gloucester. Usk priory had other links with Gloucestershire. Richard Strongbow gave the church of Badgeworth to the nuns.<sup>5</sup> At a much later date, Usk priory is mentioned in the will of Richard Dixton (1438), the founder, with William Prelatte, of the Trinity chapel in Cirencester church. They were both officially connected with Richard, Duke of York, and Dixton's will shows that he had a house at Usk, and he bequeathed ten marks to the prioress and convent to pray for him.<sup>6</sup>

Dr Mortimer Wheeler followed with an historical sketch of the two Roman towns, the sites of which at Caerwent

<sup>3</sup> Dugdale, *Monasticon*, iv, 592.

<sup>4</sup> R. Rickards, *Church and Priory of S. Mary, Usk* (London, 1904). p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> *Transactions*, xii, 245; xiii, 63.

<sup>6</sup> *Transactions*, xi, 157 ff. Baddeley, *History of Cirencester*, 200, 289, 290.

and Caerleon were to be visited the next day. Caerwent (*Venta Silurum*), which dates from the Roman conquest of South Wales about A.D. 75, was purely civil, and formed the Romanized town-centre of the tribal territory of the Silures, and the seat of its *ordo* or County Council, the survival of which in the 3rd century A.D. is attested by an important dedication to Paulinus, the commander of the legion at Caerleon, now in the church porch. In its later period the town was fortified by a stone wall, the remains of which are among the finest relics of Roman masonry in the country. *Isca Silurum* or Caerleon (i.e. *Castra Legionis*) on the other hand, was purely military, as being the permanent fortress and headquarters of the Second Legion, which remained there from about A.D. 75 to almost the end of the Roman occupation of Britain.

Wednesday, 18 September 1929

CAERWENT

Before entering the church the attention of the party was drawn to the fine Roman masonry re-used in the north wall of the nave, and also to the Roman inscriptions collected in the porch, notably the 3rd century dedication to Paulinus by decree of the cantonal council of the Silures ('*respublica civitatis Silurum*').<sup>7</sup> The vicar, the Rev. W. Coleman Williams, after welcoming the party in the church read an account of the Christian origins of the place, and the arrival of St. Tathan with his seven followers in the 7th century. He claimed that the body in a stone coffin, surrounded by seven uncoffined skeletons, discovered in the vicar's orchard in 1912, was probably that of St. Tathan; and the bones with their coffin have been reinterred in the south aisle under a slab bearing a Latin inscription which records the circumstances.<sup>8</sup> The vicar, by the way, corrected the statement of the programme that there is no trace of the original south aisle, as the new one was raised on the old foundations. He then described the architectural features of the church, and invited the members to inspect the registers, a pewter sepulchral chalice, and other relics kept in the vestry.

From the church the party moved to the impressive remains of the Roman town wall on the south side, the whole length of which was inspected under the guidance of Dr Mortimer Wheeler, who pointed out the methods of construction, and the indications of the work of separate gangs. The wall is in the charge of H.M. Office of Works, and Dr Wheeler was able to announce that the

<sup>7</sup> Haverfield-Macdonald, *Roman Occupation of Britain*, p. 184.

<sup>8</sup> *Saint Tathan, the patron saint of Caerwent*, by James G. Wood (Newport, 1912). It is generally held, however, that the burials belonged to a late Roman cemetery. See *Archaeologia* LXII, 1911, p. 442 and fig. 22.

north gate, more complete than the southern one, has just been acquired by the same authority. The excavated foundations of a small square temple, of a recognized Romano-Celtic type, were visited in a farm to the north of the high road, where other Roman remains and the outline of an amphitheatre were also visible.

The following note was written for the programme by Dr Wheeler.

The Roman *Venta Silurum* was established about A.D. 75 or 80 as the principal Roman township in the tribal territory of the Silures. This tribe had resisted the Roman invaders with exceptional obstinacy and success, and when it was finally subdued by the governor Frontinus about the year 75, the foundation of a Romanized civil centre, as a counterpart to the military fortress nine miles away at Caerleon, was clearly undertaken as an additional means of ingratiating these sturdy tribesmen.

The precaution was taken of providing the new Roman town with defences from the outset. The earliest defensive-system consisted of a palisaded earthen rampart and two ditches. Later, perhaps at the end of the 2nd century or beginning of the 3rd century A.D., this earth rampart was encased in a high stone wall, of which the remains, now in part under the guardianship of the Office of Works, are amongst the finest relics of Roman masonry in the country. In the 4th century (as recent excavation has shown, not earlier than A.D. 335) six polygonal towers were added to the southern wall; and, to complete the military history of Caerwent, it may be added that in Norman times a castle-mound was inserted at the south-eastern corner.

The Roman town was divided in characteristic fashion into twenty blocks or *insulae* by means of streets crossing one another at right angles. In the centre stood the basilica or town-hall and the forum, or market-place, of which a few fragments can still be seen.

## CAERLEON

Caerleon was reached about mid-day and here the party were joined by the President and Lady Bledisloe.

The following note was written by Dr Mortimer Wheeler for the programme.

The Roman *Isca* was one of the three permanent legionary fortresses of Roman Britain. It is possible, though not probable, that the site was occupied temporarily during the first attempt to pacify the Silures about A.D. 50. It is certain, however, that the fortress, as we know it, dates from the completion of the conquest of South Wales, about A.D. 75. It is nearly square with the usual area, 50 acres. It was defended at first by a clay rampart strengthened by timber lacings, but about A.D. 100 this rampart was faced with stone walls, of which considerable fragments can now be seen on the south-western side. The buildings, originally of timber, were, at least in many cases, re-built in stone about the same time and the foundations of a series of characteristically L-shaped barrack-blocks have recently been exposed during the excavations carried out by Mr V. E. Nash-Williams on behalf of the Caerleon Excavation Committee. Other buildings explored nearer the centre of the fortress during recent years include a part of a building which may have been the Roman military hospital, and a large structure with a colonnaded courtyard adjoining the headquarters. The objects found during this work included a large and very fine marble inscription bearing the name of the Emperor Trajan.

Outside the walls of the fortress, excavation or chance finds have revealed the extent of a number of buildings, including the regimental baths, amphitheatre, a temple of Diana and numerous other structures. The amphitheatre has been completely excavated and is now a national monument. It is of interest not merely because of its relative completeness but because it is at present the only

structure of its kind which has been fully cleared in this country. It was built about A.D. 80 and was extensively repaired on two subsequent occasions in the 2nd and early 3rd centuries.

As at Caerwent, a Norman castle-mound has been added at one of the corners of the Roman fortress. Other medieval remains in Caerleon include parts of towers at the former bridge-heads.

Dr Wheeler described the amphitheatre,<sup>9</sup> the seating of which was of wood and accommodated about 6,000 spectators, and then conducted the party to various points of interest, calling attention to the fragment which showed that the stonework had been faced with plaster painted to simulate masonry, and to the inscribed tablets or centurial stones indicating the sections of the work carried out by bodies of soldiers. A move was then made to the south-east angle of the fortress wall close by, and the great mound of the Norman castle outside the north-eastern corner of the fortress was visited. Some columns placed here came from the Roman baths in the adjoining paddock, where recent excavation had shown that all traces of the buildings discovered in 1855 had disappeared.<sup>10</sup>

A full report of the results of the excavations carried out in 1926 under the direction of Mr V. E. Nash-Williams is printed in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, December 1929, pp. 237-308.

The following extract from *The Times* of 6 August 1929 gives a summary of later results.

An investigation of the fortress defences on two of the sides has definitely established the existence of a single ditch contemporary with the primary clay bank raised at

<sup>9</sup> *Archaeologia*, LXXVIII, 1928, 111-218, The Roman Amphitheatre at Caerleon, by R. E. M. Wheeler and T. V. Wheeler; *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, ser. 7, VIII, 1928, 1-32. The Caerleon Amphitheatre: a summary, by T. V. Wheeler.

<sup>10</sup> J. E. Lee's *Isca Silurum* (London, 1862), 94, 133.

the time of the founding of the fortress in A.D. 75. The bed of the ditch, where investigated, was filled with a layer of refuse which yielded, among other things, a number of pieces of soldiers' sandals, still in excellent state of preservation, of a fine soft black leather. Five look-out turrets have also been brought to light.

Within the defences, and backing the north-western rampart, a long narrow building has been found extending for over 200 yards. This building overlies the dismantled foundations of a number of earlier structures, and itself probably dates from the early 3rd century. Its identity and purpose are at present problematical, though it is divided up into rooms, some of which are floored with tessellated pavements. In the collapsed roof débris in one of the rooms was perhaps the most interesting object yet found in this building, a tile antefix of a type used for decorating the roofs of buildings, but in this case bearing, in addition to the usual magical devices, a definite Greek cross with splayed arms in relief. If the cross were identified as Christian, it would be the only piece of direct evidence yet found of the presence of Christianity in Wales at all in the Roman period. It is regarded as more probable that the cross is here used as a pagan symbol, or else in a semi-Christian fashion as a powerful amulet.

In the interior of the field the foundations of six barrack-buildings, additional to the four already opened up, have been laid bare. They are all 35 ft. wide and 250 ft. long. Each building was intended to accommodate a company of 100 men under the command of a centurion. In one of the barracks two leaden dies were found, inscribed with the name of the centurion Vibius Severus, presumably at one time in command of the century quartered in this particular building.

Lunch was provided in the parish hall, after which the President, introducing Mr J. R. Gabriel the Hon. Curator of the Caerleon Museum, said that he hoped that its

valuable contents would some day be provided with a more worthy home than the present building. Mr Gabriel told the story of the origin of the Museum, which was opened in 1850, and was a remarkable achievement for its time, though it now required extension. Though its contents were mainly local, some objects had no connexion with Caerleon, while others coming from the place were now in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff. It was hoped that an arrangement would be reached by which the Caerleon antiquities now at Cardiff would be exchanged for the miscellaneous objects, chiefly medieval, which had come from outside to the Caerleon Museum.\*

The party then adjourned to the Museum, where Mr Gabriel pointed out the principal Roman inscriptions, and the recently discovered Roman interment, remarkable for the pipe connecting the grave with the surface, down which offerings to the dead could be poured. The medieval antiquities proved interesting to some members, especially the wooden Christ from a rood (14th or 15th cent.), discovered in the church of Kemys Inferior, not far off; and a stone carving of the well-known Trinity device, dated 1419, which came from the gateway of Mathern palace.<sup>11</sup>

The party were then conveyed up the beautiful river valley to Usk. In the absence of the vicar, Mr A. E. Bowen, F.S.A., described the church, originally a cruciform Norman structure, the western or parochial part of which was rebuilt on a larger scale, with the addition of a spacious north aisle, early in the 14th century. The Norman central tower is all that is left of the 12th century structure, as the transepts and eastern arm were demolished at the

\* Since the meeting it has been agreed that the Caerleon Museum shall become a branch of the National Museum, being entitled 'The Legionary Museum of Caerleon'. Its special function will be to illustrate the Roman occupation of the district.—ED.

<sup>11</sup> Given to the Museum by Lord Tredegar, one of whose predecessors had acquired it when the gateway was destroyed by Bishop Barrington in the 18th century.

Dissolution. In the last century (1844) it was converted into a chancel, and the groined ceiling inserted. Attention was drawn to the lofty 15th cent. rood screen stretching across the whole church one bay in front of the crossing. The southern part has been decorated in colour. Attached to the back of it is the fragment of a brass with two lines of the Welsh epitaph of the chronicler, Adam of Usk (1360-1430), the interpretation of which has caused much discussion. He was an ecclesiastical lawyer, but best known from his *Chronicle*, edited by the late Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, who later discovered at Belvoir castle, and published, the concluding part. His will left bequests to Usk and the church, and directed his burial in it. Mr Rushforth, after thanking Mr Bowen for his address, recalled what he had said the previous evening about the probability that the original founders of the priory were the first De Clares established in England, Richard and his son Gilbert who died in 1115. The surviving Norman work in the church gave the impression of an early date in the 12th century. The nuns' quire was probably, as usual, under the tower, closed by a screen or 'pulpitum', a bay west of which was the rood screen, under, or in front of which the parish altar would stand. He also remarked on the singularity of the epitaph of a canonist and ecclesiastic like Adam of Usk being, not in Latin, but in the vernacular. The brass-maker (perhaps at Bristol), apparently, was not accustomed to Welsh inscriptions, and made a muddle of the copy that was given to him.<sup>12</sup>

Outside the church the richly decorated western and northern porches were noticed. They appear to belong to the end of the 15th century, and the portcullis in a panel above the outer arch of the northern one may, perhaps, be explained by the fact mentioned by Mr Bowen that Henry VII assigned the castle to his son Arthur. A much

<sup>12</sup> E. M. Thompson, *Chronicon Adae de Usk* (London, 1904), pp. xxxi ff. See also Bradney, *History of Monmouthshire*, III, pt. 1, p. 60.

weathered effigy lying by the path was thought by Miss Roper to be that of a civilian of about 1400.<sup>13</sup>

The members next, by kind permission of the owner, Mr R. W. Rickards, visited the adjoining 'Priory' on the south side of the church, which, though it has lost its cloister and buildings connecting it with the church, incorporates the remains of the house of the nuns. Mr Bowen again acted as guide. No traces above ground of the south transept or presbytery are visible in the garden. A room on the ground floor has the copy<sup>14</sup> of an interesting frieze in carved oak, originally no doubt painted and gilt, of the time of Henry VIII, exhibiting the initials of Ellen Williams, the last prioress, who must have put it up not later than about 1525, as the pomegranate of Catherine of Aragon appears beside the crowned rose of the king. The royal arms and badges (rose, portcullis, etc.), four heads perhaps intended for portraits, the sacred monograms and Passion symbols, are also represented on shields, together with the arms of the De Clares, the founders, and of Henry Earl of Northumberland, who must have been a benefactor when he held the Wardenship of the Welsh Marches under Henry IV in the early years of the 15th century. There seems to be no satisfactory explanation of another shield with three fish 'fretted in triangle' (as Guillim describes it), ascribed to Troutbeck. A room on the first floor has a 15th century fireplace and oriel window. After tea the party returned to Chepstow.

In the evening the President and Lady Bledisloe, accompanied by Dr and Mrs Mortimer Wheeler, dined with some members of the Council at the Beaufort Arms. Lord Bledisloe afterwards read his presidential address on the history of Lydney, for which he was warmly thanked.

<sup>13</sup> It must have resembled the wooden effigy (probably of Walter de Helion) in Much Marcle church, Herefordshire.

<sup>14</sup> The original was removed by the late Duke of Beaufort, in the days when he owned the property, to Cefntilla Court, the residence of Lord Raglan. It is illustrated in the late Mr Rickards' *Church and Priory of S. Mary, Usk* (London, Bemrose, 1904).

*Thursday, 19 September 1929*

### MATHERN

The morning's excursion was devoted to a group of interesting places to the southwest of Chepstow. The first was Mathern. The vicar, the Rev. W. H. Williams, welcomed the party in the church, and congratulated the Society on the excellence of its printed programme, the account of the church not only being correct but containing new information. He then told the story of St. Teudrig or Theodoric (6th cent.), killed in battle against the pagans, and buried here in a church, later dedicated to his memory. Possibly a fragment of that church survives in the rude masonry of the last pier of the northern arcade towards the west. The bones of Theodoric in a stone coffin were re-discovered by Bishop Godwin (1601-17), who put up a commemorative inscription above them on the north wall of the chancel. Several bishops of Llandaff (who had a residence here) were buried in the church, but they have no monuments. He called attention to various architectural features, and also to the modern carved oak reredos containing figures of the chief personalities connected with Mathern.

Mr Rushforth thanked the vicar on behalf of the Society for his address, and said we must not be too critical of historical legends such as that of Theodoric, but accept them for what they were worth. There could be no doubt, in any case, that this church had a very early origin, and the massive pier in the northern arcade was so featureless that it might belong to almost any age. The old church was evidently reconstructed in the 13th century, and a good deal of work was done in the 15th century owing to the interest taken in it by the bishops of Llandaff, who came to live here on their ancient manor after their other residences had been ruined in the wars of Owen Glyndwr.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Bradney, *History of Monmouth*, iv, part 1, 1929, p. 63.

Probably Bishop John Marshall (1478-96) increased the width of the aisles and filled the new windows with painted glass, fragments of which were collected in the west window of the south aisle. He also built the fine tower at the west end, on which may be seen shields bearing his initial **M** impaled with the arms of the see, and accompanied by an eagle, the symbol of John the Evangelist, to represent his Christian name.<sup>15a</sup> The tomb of one of his successors, Miles Salley (1500-1516), in the Lord Mayor's chapel, Bristol, will be familiar to many members of the Society; but his will directed that his heart and viscera were to be buried in Mathern church before the image of St. Theodoric, near the high altar.<sup>16</sup> The image would be beside or above the saint's grave, marked by Bishop Godwin's inscription on the north wall of the chancel, between the two windows. Charles Heath in his guide to Chepstow and neighbourhood published in 1813 mentions that the medieval gravestone, thoughtlessly removed to the middle of the chancel floor at a modern restoration, was then 'on the north side of the chancel below the Communion rails'—in other words in front of St. Theodoric's shrine.<sup>17</sup> There can be little doubt that this stone covered the bishop's heart. It bears a large incised cross on a stepped base, and round the margin was an inscription (already illegible in Heath's time), of which only some faint traces of lettering remain at the northeast corner.

The party next visited the picturesque remains of the palace of the bishops of Llandaff, which evidently assumed its present form when they made it their regular residence in the 15th century. One side of the quadrangle has disappeared, and the house has generally been curtailed

<sup>15a</sup> Elsewhere his arms are described as 'party per chevron', in chief a falcon, in base the letter M. Bedford, *Blazon of Episcopacy*, p. 69.

<sup>16</sup> *Transactions*, XLIX, 1927, 304. Nicolas, *Testamenta Vetusta*, II, 538.

<sup>17</sup> C. Heath, *Historical and Descriptive Accounts of Chepstow, etc.* (Monmouth, 6th ed., 1813, not paged).

and altered after it was abandoned by the bishops (the last who occupied it is said to have been Thomas Beaw, who died in 1705<sup>18</sup>), though it remained in the possession of the see, and ultimately of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, till it was sold in 1889<sup>19</sup>. The present owner, Col. D. J. Campbell Macnabb, C.I.E., received the members in front of the entrance, and spoke about the history of the house, and some of its features. Its well-restored interior was then explored under his guidance and that of Mrs Macnabb. The former chapel retains its large east window, now divided into two halves so as to serve the upper floor which has been inserted. The charming gardens were laid out by the former owner, Mr Avray Tipping, and the brilliant display of *Lobelia cardinalis* and other late-summer flowers was much admired. The party then returned through the churchyard, and under the guidance of the owner, General E. A. Herbert, C.M.G., reached Moynes Court.

MOYNES COURT occupies part of the site of the ancient castle of the De Knovils, slight traces of which exist in the adjacent orchard, and takes its name from Sir Thomas Moyne, who about the middle of the 14th century married Margaret widow of John de Knovil. Probably she built a house in the outer bailey of the castle, which was allowed to disappear except for the imposing outer gate-house flanked by square towers, with some 14th century details, and still forming the entrance to the garden-court. In 1608 the then owners, the Morgans of Pencoed, granted a lease to Bishop Francis Godwin of Llandaff, who erected the present gabled house, which, on his translation to Hereford in 1617, he resigned to his son-in-law. In 1638 the Morgans sold the property to Francis Lewis of St. Pierre, in whose family it remained till the recent sale.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Great grandson of Guillaume Beau from Normandy, fought in the Civil War, took orders, and became vicar of Adderbury (Oxon.), where he is buried. Bradney, iv, pt. 1, p. 63.

<sup>19</sup> Brady, iv, pt. 1, pp. 63, 64.

<sup>20</sup> Bradney, iv, pt. 1, pp. 51 ff.

In the charming walled garden in front of the house General Herbert welcomed the party (which was here joined by the President and Lady Bledisloe), and sketched the history of the place. He said he felt doubts as to whether the house was built by Bishop Godwin, who was only a tenant, and was always trying to get promotion, as his letters showed. In reply Mr Rushforth pointed out that the bishop's coat of arms over the door, with the Latin inscription (now lying loose in the porch) stating that he built the house in 1609, were pretty strong evidence that he was responsible for the present building, the style of which, moreover, seems to belong precisely to the early years of the 17th century (as was confirmed afterwards by Mr Overbury and others, comparing it with similar Cotswold houses of the same date). He may well have found the episcopal residence at Mathern out of repair, and in any case old fashioned and uncomfortable; and moreover he wanted to provide a home for his descendants. Bishop Godwin was a historian and an antiquary; and in the walls of the garden in which they stood he inserted some of the Roman inscriptions which they had seen in the Museum at Caerleon, communicated by him to his friend Camden for publication in the 6th edition of his *Britannia* (1607). Heath's Guide to Chepstow, etc (1813) records some coats of arms painted on the walls of the hall ('now a good kitchen') entered from the porch, while at the upper end of the adjoining large room was 'a painting of Zaleucus, with his son, undergoing the punishment decreed by himself against adulterers'<sup>21</sup>—perhaps due to the scholarly bishop.

The President thanked General Herbert for his kind reception of the Society, and was glad to think that he had come to live in a district where his name and family

<sup>21</sup> The story is told by Aelian and Valerius Maximus that the Greek lawgiver Zaleucus (7th cent. B.C.) enacted that an adulterer should lose both eyes. When his own son became liable to this penalty, he gave up one of his own eyes in order that the son might keep one of his.

were so well known. He congratulated Mr Rushforth in having defended at least one old tradition in these days when experts were constantly upsetting previously received dates and accounts.

#### CALDICOT CASTLE

The party then made its way to Caldicot castle, the towered curtain walls and imposing gate-house of which form a striking spectacle as approached from the south. In the absence of the owner Mr G. E. Wheatley Cobb, who was detained by his duties on his boys' training ship the 'Foudroyant' at Falmouth, Mr Overbury and Mr Rushforth at the request of the President shortly described the castle and its history. It was founded by Miles of Gloucester, Earl of Hereford (d. 1143), but the circular Norman keep, forming part of the enceinte, is probably not earlier than the time of his son-in-law Humphrey de Bohun. The original entrance was near by, on the west. Later works of the 14th century were the great gate-house (now converted into a residence), the adjoining great hall, of which the outer wall with its range of windows remains, and the postern gate-tower opposite, on a stone of which is carved the name *Thomas*, for Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester (1355-97), who married an heiress of the De Bohun Earls of Hereford. Her name *Alianor* appears on another stone in a modern wall close by, but nothing seems to be known of its origin. The ultimate heirs of the De Bohuns were the Staffords, but after the execution of Edward Duke of Buckingham in 1521, Caldicot fell to the Crown, and was annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster, which retained it till it was sold in 1857 to C. Lewis of St. Pierre. In 1891 it was purchased by the father of the present owner,<sup>22</sup> who restored the gate-house, then more or less a ruin, so that it might be habitable.

<sup>22</sup> Bradney, *History of Monmouthshire*, iv, part 1, pp. 110 ff. *Notes on the Architecture and History of Caldicot Castle*, by Octavius Morgan and T. Wakeman (Newport, for the Caerleon Antiquarian Association, 1854).

The party then visited the interior, which has been on the whole well restored, noticing the deep embrasures of the windows with their stone seats, the fire-places, and a small chapel (now a bedroom) indicated by a piscina in a recess. Most of the rooms are on different levels. The exterior of the castle enclosure is a well-kept lawn, on which may be seen the figure-head of Nelson's 'Foudroyant.'

### CHEPSTOW

The members returned to Chepstow for lunch at the Beaufort Arms. The President to his regret was unable to remain, as he was showing the excavations in the Park to the people of Lydney in the afternoon. A good many members visited the parish church (St. Mary), formerly that of the Benedictine priory founded by the Norman lords of Chepstow as a cell to the abbey of Corneilles in Normandy. After the suppression of the alien priories it continued to exist until the Dissolution. Mr Rushforth pointed out the chief features of interest. Only the nave of the priory church survives, deprived of its aisles. The choir and transepts disappeared after the Dissolution, when the church became solely parochial, and the central tower, which had been retained for the sake of the bells, being deprived of support, fell about 1700. Its materials were used to construct the present tower over the westernmost bay of the nave in 1705-6. It opens into the nave by what is, apparently, one of the arches of the crossing, remodelled for its new position in the 18th century. On the exterior the Norman west front remains, with a triplet of windows (as at the Norman abbey of Bocheville of about 1100) above a rich portal. In 1841 the aisles and eastern bay of the nave were destroyed, and a chancel and transepts were erected in a poor quasi-Norman style, but this work (except the north transept) has now been replaced by a somewhat more satisfactory structure in

early 14th century Gothic.<sup>23</sup> The base of one of the huge piers supporting the central tower is visible on the north side, and a 14th century doorway has been incorporated in the chancel wall. There are two rather elaborate monuments. That of Henry 2nd Earl of Worcester (now at the west but originally at the east end), who died in 1549, must, as its Elizabethan style shows, have been erected by his widow Elizabeth, who lived till 1565 and is represented lying beside him. In the south transept is the large and characteristic tomb of Mrs Clayton (d. 1620) and her two husbands. Henry Marten, one of the few 'regicides' who was not executed at the Restoration, died as a State prisoner in the castle in 1680, and was buried in the chancel, but was ejected by a Tory vicar in the 18th century. A fragment of the acrostic epitaph which he composed for himself is lying by the north door. Its concluding lines may be quoted. :

' Examples preach to the eye. Care, then, mine says,  
Not how you end, but how you spend your days '.

In the westernmost window on the south side of the nave is a fine panel of French 16th century glass, but only the right half of a composition. A bearded warrior with hands joined in prayer or entreaty is advancing from the right to meet some one. In the background is an elaborate colonnade. It may represent the meeting of Abraham and Melchisedek. How it came to the church seems to be unknown.

#### CHEPSTOW CASTLE<sup>24</sup>

In the unavoidable absence of the owner, Mr W. R. Lysaght, the party were received at the castle by his son

<sup>23</sup> *St. Mary's Church, Chepstow*, by the Rev. E. J. Hensley, 2nd ed. 1911. The designs were by the late Mr Seddon, carried out after his death by Mr Carter of Cheltenham.

<sup>24</sup> Sir Charles Oman's excellent account in the Great Western Railway's volume *Castles* (London, 1926) may be consulted. See also Mr Brakspear in *Transactions*, XLIV (1922), p. 1 ff, and the references in Prof. Hamilton Thompson's *Military Architecture* (London, 1912).

Mr Desmond Lysaght, who conducted the members through the various parts, and proved to be an excellent guide. The castle occupies a narrow rocky ridge overlooking the river on one side, and a ravine separating it from the town on the other. The lower ward, which is first entered, was added in the time of Edward I, and contains the chief living rooms, evidently remodelled in the 16th century. An important feature is 'Marten's tower' (*i.e.* Henry Marten's prison, 1660-1680) with its massive projection commanding the approach from the town to the gateway. The interior, like nearly all the residential parts of the castle, was allowed to fall into decay in the 18th century, and the large mullioned windows and fireplace are all that is left to recall the spacious room occupied by Marten on the first floor. Attention was called to the immense walnut tree almost filling the upper part of this ward. The oldest part of the castle is the oblong keep occupying the narrowest part of the ridge, with a ward on either side of it. The lower part of the great hall, with a plain blank arcade round two sides, used to be described as the work of the De Clares in the 12th century, but is now given to William FitzOsbern, the founder of the castle, who was killed in 1071.<sup>25</sup> The upper part was remodelled in the 13th century, when traceried windows were inserted in the wall overlooking the Wye. The spring of a richly decorated arch crossing the upper part of the hall remains. In the end wall are two round openings, not symmetrically placed, possibly of Norman work, which gave rise to some discussion as to whether their purpose was decorative or practical. Beyond the bailey on this side (originally protected by a ditch, which still remains) a barbican was thrown out in the 13th century, occupying the end of the ridge, and having a strong gateway which formed the back entrance to the castle. The whole fabric is well cared for by the present owner.

<sup>25</sup> Hamilton Thompson, p. 104.

Mr Lysaght had kindly provided tea in the lower ward, which was welcome after so much sight-seeing. Before the members dispersed, Mr J. J. Simpson in their name thanked Mr Lysaght for his hospitality, and also proposed votes of thanks to Mr Overbury for his invaluable services in organizing the arrangements for the meeting, and to Mr Rushforth for his addresses and explanations at the various places which they had visited. In reply Mr Rushforth said that he felt a tribute ought to be paid to their guide of that afternoon. Efforts to secure the assistance of some well-known authority having failed, he had come to the castle with an uneasy feeling that he might be called upon to say something about it himself, a duty for which he was very ill-prepared. It was a relief to find that Mr Desmond Lysaght, who modestly disclaimed any special knowledge of the subject, was willing to undertake it; but he had not listened to him for five minutes before he realized that they were in the hands of one of the best guides they had ever met. He must congratulate Mr Lysaght on having such a son, and the castle on having come into the possession of those who took such a real interest in its history and preservation.

It remains only to record in this report the thanks of the Society to the President and Lady Bledisloe for the keen interest which they took in the proceedings and to Dr Mortimer Wheeler for adding so immensely to the pleasure of the meeting by his informing addresses at Lydney, Caerwent and Caerleon. Mr Overbury's name was mentioned at Chepstow castle, but as one who has had full experience of the organization of the Society's meetings the Editor would express the general appreciation of the members for the admirable arrangements made throughout.

## BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE

## EXCAVATION

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

		RECEIPTS					£	s.	d.
1920	Subscriptions and bank interest to 31 December								
	1920 (see <i>Transactions</i> , XLII, 184) .. .. .					142	6	1	
1921	Bank interest .. .. .					5	2	0	
1922	F. B. de Sausmarez .. .. .					1	0	0	
	J. E. Pritchard .. .. .					1	1	0	
	J. J. Simpson .. .. .					1	1	0	
	Charles Wells .. .. .					1	1	0	
	F. Were .. .. .						10	0	
	Mrs Hore .. .. .						5	0	
	Bank interest .. .. .					3	11	10	
1923	.. .. .					3	8	9	
1924	.. .. .					3	2	11	
1925	E. J. Burrow .. .. .					5	0	0	
	Cotteswold Field Club .. .. .					5	0	0	
	F. B. de Sausmarez .. .. .					1	0	0	
	Bank interest .. .. .					2	18	9	
1926	F. B. de Sausmarez .. .. .					1	1	0	
	J. E. Pritchard .. .. .					1	1	0	
	J. J. Simpson .. .. .					1	1	0	
	R. Hall Warren .. .. .					1	1	0	
	Charles Wells .. .. .					1	1	0	
	Bank interest .. .. .					2	9	4	
1927	.. .. .					2	2	7	
1928	.. .. .					2	3	8	
1929	Donations, excavation of Belas Knap tumulus					62	19	6	
	Bank interest .. .. .					2	19	5	
						<hr/>			
						£254	7	10	
						<hr/>			

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## FUND

FOR 1920-29

		PAYMENTS	£	s.	d.
1922	Cheque book .. .. .			2	0
	Cirencester : excavations, Victoria Road ..		14	18	8
1923	Sea Mills : excavations .. .. .		7	1	4
	Photographs and lantern slides ..		1	10	2
1924	Churchdown : excavations .. .. .		15	0	0
	H. E. Foll, trial excavations Bredon Hill ..			18	0
1925	Leckhampton Hill : excavations .. ..		24	1	2
1926	Caerleon Excavation Fund, donation ..		10	0	0
	Deerhurst Church (east end), excavations ..		25	0	0
1928	Belas Knap Tumulus, excavations :— ..				
	Special assistance .. .. .			2	10
	Labour and plant .. .. .			73	9
	Printing, postage, &c. .. .. .				17
				<hr/>	
				175	9
					0
	Balance in hand .. .. .			78	18
					10

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£254 7 10

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