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**Proceedings of the Society at Hinton Charterhouse, Farleigh
Castle, South Wraxall Manor, Corsham Court, and Bath**

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THE SPRING MEETING

8 May, 1939

The places arranged for this meeting were in Somerset and Wiltshire, and a large number of members of the Society and their friends attended.

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE (Somerset)

The remains of this Carthusian priory (*c.* 1227) were visited in 1900 and particulars of its history and plan will be found in the full report printed in 'Transactions', xxvii, 44-49. A comparatively small part of the original buildings now exist but they are of interest. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr C. E. Pitman for permitting access to the site.

FARLEIGH CASTLE (Somerset)

The castle, now under the care of H.M. Office of Works, was also visited in 1900 and reference to the report printed ('Transactions', xxvii, 49-50) may again be suggested. The castle was owned by the Hungerford family from 1369 until the 18th century, and of whom there are some fine effigies in the chapel, particularly those of Sir Thomas (d. 1398) and his wife Joan (d. 1412), and Sir Edward (d. 1648) and Margaret Hungerford. There are also altar tombs of other members. A considerable collection of armour is arranged on the walls.

SOUTH WRAXALL MANOR (Wiltshire)

This was the first occasion of the Society's visit to the Manor House at South Wraxall and the permission given

by the Right Hon. Viscount Long was very much appreciated.

South Wraxall at one time formed part of the manor of Bradford on Avon. The Manor House was built by Robert Long in the first quarter of the 15th century. He was member of parliament for Wiltshire in 1433 and died 1447. The house has been a possession of the family ever since, and retains much of its original character, being a fine example of its period. The parts which remain of Robert Long's building are the great hall (which is almost intact) with its porch and two oriels; the parlour at the south end; the kitchen adjoining and the host's chamber over; the buttery north of the hall and the guest chamber over. The hall is 32 feet in length including the screens, 20 feet wide, and 20 feet high to the springing of the roof, which is of early hammer-beam type, with rich mouldings. The shields on the corbels are 16th century. Extensive alterations were carried out in the reign of Elizabeth and the early years of James I, when the character of the principal front was considerably changed.

Members were most kindly received by Lady Glyn, who conducted them through the house and described its features in a most interesting way. Some time was also spent in the gardens.

CORSHAM COURT (Wiltshire)

On a former visit to the Court, the Society were welcomed by Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, and on this occasion they were invited by his son, the 4th Baron. The Manor and lands came into the family by purchase in 1770. Some particulars of the changes and additions made to the house, the oldest part of which dates from 1582, will be found in 'Transactions', XLIX, 7. The Court is noted for its collection of paintings of the Flemish and Italian schools, and for the portraits by English

artists of the 17th and 18th centuries. Lord Methuen is well known for his talents as an artist and knowledge of pictures, and in conducting members through the various rooms he imparted much information.

BATH ASSEMBLY ROOMS

The hospitality of the City of Bath has been experienced on a former visit and it was repeated in full measure on this one. A special invitation was given by the Mayor, Captain Adrian Hopkins, M.C., who with the Mayoress entertained the members to tea in the smaller Assembly Hall or Tea Room, which is 66 feet long by 41 feet wide, with an orchestral gallery extending the whole width of the room.

The Assembly Rooms designed by John Wood the younger and costing over £20,000, were opened to the public in 1771 and became famous for the social gatherings held there, and for many years they were the centre of fashion and pleasure. In more recent times the fame and character of the Rooms had lapsed and then interest in them was revived by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, who through the generosity of an anonymous donor purchased them and placed them in the care of the National Trust. In this fine action the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres took a prominent part. A condition of the lease of the Rooms to the Corporation of Bath at a 'peppercorn' rent was that they should be restored so far as possible to their original state, and at a cost to the City of some £30,000 this was done with great taste under the direction of Mr Mowbray Green, the Architect, to whose care we owe a perfect restoration.

The full history of the Assembly Rooms is now recorded in an illustrated brochure prepared for the re-opening on the 19th October 1938 by the Duchess of Kent. It includes much relating to the early history of the Rooms.

After tea the Mayor of Bath gave an account of the

steps taken to restore the building to its former beauty and the admirable result must have been apparent to all present. Two parties were formed under the guidance of the Mayor and Mr Mowbray Green, both of whom took great pains to impart interesting information on every possible point. Before leaving, the President of the Society (Mr Charles E. Boucher) expressed the great pleasure which had been given by the visit and their thanks for the hospitality which had been shown.