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## BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ANNUAL MEETING, 12 *July* 1944

## REPORT FOR 1943

The Council recall the resignation of the Honorary Secretaryship last year by Mr H. Stratton Davis, F.S.A., who had held the appointment since the formation of the Trust in 1928. Mr Davis's services to the Trust have been of the utmost value, and it is a matter of general regret that his continued absence from Gloucester on Government work compelled him to resign. The thanks of the Trust are due to our Chairman, Mr Leighton, who has acted as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, in addition to carrying out his own duties, during the absence of Mr Stratton Davis, and also to Mr Harold Fletcher Trew, F.R.I.B.A. for accepting the appointment of Hon. Secretary in succession to Mr Stratton Davis in a time of exceptional difficulty.

During the year 1943, two new members were elected, and the total membership is now 61. All members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society are eligible for membership of the Trust on payment of a composite fee of ten shillings. Interest in the work of the Trust would be greatly stimulated if more members of the Society took advantage of this privilege.

The thanks of the Trust are again due to Messrs Duart-Smith, Baker and Price, the Honorary Auditors, whose re-election is recommended.

*Arlington Row*

The Sub-Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Messrs Austin, Edwards, and Overbury, appointed to deal in war-time with matters relating to Arlington Row, owing to the difficulty in

arranging full meetings of the Council, gave very careful consideration to the proposals put forward by the local Management Committee, for installing electric light and improving the water supply to the cottages. While sympathising with the proposals they felt impelled to veto them during the war period. The suggestions with reference to electric light involved the use of overhead cables on poles, to avoid which the Trust had joined with the Royal Society of Arts in subscribing £50 when current was first brought to the village ; while the proposals for the water supply were not entirely satisfactory. The cost of these improvements would also have greatly exceeded the small sum which the Local Committee had in hand, and is held as a reserve against any repairs which may be necessary to the property.

Improvements of the nature referred to will certainly be necessary after the conclusion of the War, and additional funds will have to be raised for the purpose. In this connexion, however, it is probable that some form of Government subsidy may be available. The Council also feel that work of this nature, when undertaken, should be the subject of a comprehensive plan.

The resignations of two members of the Local Committee, Messrs Brigstocke and Mackenzie, have been accepted with regret.

The thanks of the Trust are due to Mrs M. K. Longfield for her services as Honorary Treasurer and Secretary of the Local Committee.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

12 July 1944

The 64th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Art Gallery, Cheltenham, the President (Roland Austin) in the Chair. Members were welcomed by the Mayor of Cheltenham, Alderman Clara F. Winterbotham, M.B.E., J.P.

The report of the Council was presented, the principal matters being as follows:—

The membership of the Society on 12 July was 430, comparing with 543 in 1939. In recent years several life members have died and there are now only 30. During the year 18 new members have been elected. There are 379 subscribing members, 50 Institutions, and 1 honorary member. The Council regret to record the death of 10 members, who are named below.

Robert Holland Martin was elected in 1918, and was President for the year 1933-34. One of his many interests was to promote attention to the study of the 17th and 18th century monuments in our parish churches, which in his opinion present the changes in style and dress of those times more faithfully than any other source, and also gained for the sculptors a recognized position in the history of English carving. He emphasized this in his Presidential address, printed in *Transactions*, LV, 45-53. By his encouragement increased study in this direction has resulted.

Residence in Gloucestershire and its contiguity to Worcestershire gave him many opportunities to pursue his archaeological interests. One of outstanding importance was the care of Tewkesbury Abbey, and as a member of the Council of the Friends of the Abbey he gave constant attention to its welfare and the good work done there in recent years. He took a great part in the opportunity to secure the property surrounding the Abbey which might otherwise have become a matter of speculation. When in 1939 the redemption of the land

encircling the eastern chapel and covering the site of the Lady Chapel became possible, his influence was brought to bear and eventually resulted in a generous friend of the Abbey making a gift which relieved all anxiety as to the purchase. It can be said that it was due entirely to Mr Holland Martin that the recovery of the land alienated at the dissolution of the monastery in 1541 was effected through his efforts.

The Rt. Hon. Earl Bathurst was elected in 1911 as a life member, and was President of the Society for the year 1924-25. He was much interested in the Roman remains found on his estate, and maintained for many years the Corinium Museum built by his father, the 4th Earl.

Mr Lewis J. U. Way, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., whose death in July 1943 was not known until several months after, was elected in 1906 as a life member. He was secretary for Bristol from 1909 to 1919, and contributed several papers to the *Transactions*, all of which were well documented and full of information.

Mr C. H. B. Elliott, LL.D., was elected in 1935. He took great interest in educational affairs and wrote a history (1936) of Winterbourne.

Other Members who died were the Rt. Hon. Lord Dickinson of Painswick, elected in 1931; Mr C. E. Evans of Nailsea (1911); Mr F. A. Wilshire, of Bristol (1919); Miss N. B. Thompson, of Lechlade (1925); Mr James Mansell, Gloucester (1925); Rev. William Milner Atkinson, Bournemouth (1934).

The statement of accounts (1943) is printed on page 248 and shows that the Society's finances are in a satisfactory condition.

It is of course impossible yet to resume the meetings which gave so much pleasure in the past, but arrangements were made for 'District Meetings' to be held at Wells, Thornbury, Cirencester, and Tewkesbury.

The Council have given considerable attention to the condition of the Roman Villa at Spoonly Wood. It

presents difficulties, and the impossibility of getting labour at this time prevents active plans being prepared.

The President has reported the formation of The Council of British Archaeology in 1943 and particulars of its purpose are printed on pages 240-5.

Nominations for Members of Council, and other offices, were considered and several vacancies filled.

The business of the Society having been completed Miss E. Matley Moore gave a most interesting address on Domestic Wall Paintings, which she illustrated by drawings and lantern slides.

The Society is much indebted to Mr D. W. Herdman for making such careful arrangements for the Meeting.

Later in the afternoon Members visited Cheltenham Parish Church under the guidance of Mr Thomas Overbury, F.S.A., Chairman of Council.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1943

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE		
Balances 1 Jan. 1943	£573	15 7	<i>Transactions</i> , vol. 63	£371	0 1
Subscriptions .. ..	306	11 0	Library .. ..	21	8 0
Dividends .. ..	22	15 0	Bristol Branch ..	5	0 0
Sales .. ..	4	6 9	Printing and stationery	8	3 4
Interest .. ..	15	3 1	Postages .. ..	8	0 0
			Subscription, Council,		
			Ancient Bristol ..	2	4 0
			Subscription repaid	1	1 0
			Sundries .. ..	1	3 0
			Balances	£417	19 5
			31 December 1943	504	12 0
				£922	11 5
LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
Excavation Fund ..	£34	3 3	War Stock (3½) ..	£650	0 0
Fryer Fund .. ..	16	14 4	Savings Certificates		
Subscription in advance	4	14 6	2nd issue, 20th year	233	0 0
			Paper ( <i>Transactions</i> )	20	0 0
			Balances		
			Lloyds Bank ..	39	8 10
Surplus			Post Office ..	465	3 2
General Fund ..	1351	19 11			
				£1407	12 0
				£1407	12 0

## THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

On the 4th of May 1943 a meeting convened by the Society of Antiquaries of London was held at Burlington House to consider the formation of a Council for British Archaeology. Representatives of nearly all the Archaeological Societies were present, as well as those of Institutions and Universities. As the result of a full discussion there was unanimous assent as to the value of such a Council. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Society was represented by the President (Roland Austin, F.S.A.) In September 1943 the following statement was issued from Burlington House.

‘ Archaeologists will be faced after the war with problems of great magnitude and complexity. These range over every field of archaeological work and cover all periods down to the nineteenth century. Some of them are perennial, others are the result of war-time damage and plans for reconstruction. For example, the excavation of bombed sites frequently provides opportunity for obtaining historical evidence which may never recur. The preservation of notable country houses and other historic buildings threatened by “development” is a long-standing problem which is unlikely to grow less acute in years to come. The recording of stained glass removed for safety must also be undertaken.

With these and similar questions in mind, representatives of Archaeological Societies and kindred interests met in conference on 4 May 1943, at the invitation of the Society of Antiquaries. They decided to establish a Council for British Archaeology. For while many societies are occupied with the archaeology of particular districts, periods, or subjects, it is clear that none is sufficiently representative of British Archaeology as a whole to speak with authority both to the general public

and to the Government. The policy of the proposed Council is set out below.

The Conference of 4 May appointed a Provisional Council to report and make recommendations for presentation to it at a subsequent meeting. Acting on these recommendations, which aim at securing the fullest representation of archaeological interests throughout the country, the Conference, which met for a second time on 6 August, has decided to invite Archaeological Societies in England, Scotland and Wales to form themselves into regional groups in the areas defined below :—

1. Scotland
2. Wales and Monmouthshire
3. Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland,  
Westmorland
4. Yorkshire
5. Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire
6. Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, the  
Soke of Peterborough, Leicestershire,  
Rutland
7. Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire,  
Norfolk, Suffolk
8. Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire,  
Herefordshire
9. Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire,  
Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire.
10. London, Middlesex, Essex, Hertfordshire
11. Kent, Surrey, Sussex.
12. Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire
13. Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devonshire,  
Cornwall

It is suggested that such regional groups should have a dual purpose : to elect representatives of their regions to the Council, and to meet in their own districts for the consideration of regional problems. Each regional group in England is invited to appoint three representatives to the Council, Scotland to appoint nine, and Wales six.

In addition, National Societies and other bodies, listed below, are invited to appoint representatives to the Council :—

Universities where teaching of Archaeology forms part of the official curriculum are invited to elect two representatives.

The following are invited to elect one representative each :—

National Museums  
 Guildhall Museum  
 Museums Association  
 Regional Museum Federations  
 Society of Antiquaries of London  
 Society of Antiquaries of Scotland  
 Cambrian Archaeological Association  
 Royal Archaeological Institute  
 British Archaeological Association  
 British Association for the Advancement of Science.  
 Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies  
 Prehistoric Society  
 Royal Anthropological Institute  
 Royal Numismatic Society  
 British Records Association  
 Historical Association  
 Royal Historical Society

While it is hoped that the regional groups will make themselves responsible for dealing with local problems in co-operation with the Council, the Council itself will deal with more general matters. It will, for instance, urge the necessity of large State grants to deal with problems too vast or too urgent for the resources of any one learned society or regional committee, and it will seek to strengthen existing measures for the care and preservation of historic monuments. Knowing that State action depends upon public demand, the Council will set out to enlighten public opinion concerning the records and

monuments of the past. It will work also for the adequate recognition of archaeology, not only in the Universities and Schools, but in the wide field of adult education. It will co-operate with any parallel organisation that may seek to foster the progress of Museum activities.

It is desirable that the machinery of the Council should be brought into being quickly, and it is therefore hoped that the regional groups and other bodies concerned will make their appointments at their earliest convenience.'

A. W. CLAPHAM, *President*.

PHILIP CORDER, *Hon. Secretary*.

The first meeting of the Council was held on 8 March 1944 when among other business the constitution of the Regional Groups was considered and Panels of Referees for different Periods were appointed. The members of the Regional Groups were agreed, which included Group 13—Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall—the nominations for membership of the Council being Roland Austin, F.S.A., E. H. Rogers, and C. K. C. Andrew, F.S.A., with St. George Gray, F.S.A., who for the present is acting as Secretary of this Group, but is representing the Museums Federation on the Council.

At the Annual Meeting of our Society held on 12 July 1944 the following were appointed to represent Gloucestershire on the Regional Council :—Mrs E. M. Clifford, F.S.A., Wilfrid Leighton, F.S.A., Thomas Overbury, F.S.A., and Sir Lionel Taylor, M.A.

A further statement as to the purpose of the Council and its functions was circulated and is printed here for the information of our Members :—

Most Archaeologists are already aware of the recent formation of the Council for British Archaeology, which has been set up as a central body to express the views of those connected with archaeology, particularly with reference to post-war planning and development. The first meeting of the Council was held on 8 March 1944.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the Council is fully representative, as it is clear that it is only by showing that there is a strong body of opinion behind claims that archaeological matters should be considered in connexion with rebuilding and development that due attention can be secured for them. The national societies concerned with archaeology and kindred subjects, the national museums, and universities including archaeology in their curriculum, have direct representation on the Council. The county archaeological societies, again including those dealing with kindred subjects, have been asked to form Regional Groups, which have a dual function—to elect representatives to the central Council, and to deal with matters of local rather than national significance. The Scottish Regional Group elects nine representatives to the Council, the Welsh Group six, and the eleven English Groups three each. In addition, the Regional Federations of Museums elect one representative each.

The most immediate task for the Council is that connected with post-war rebuilding and development. The task of ensuring that in the rebuilding of bombed towns, and in the development of new areas such as housing estates and roads, valuable archaeological remains are not destroyed without record is a tremendous one. It is in fact a task far beyond the resources of any individual society, both financially and administratively, and one which can only be attempted by the State. The responsibility of the State for the preservation and excavation of the material remains of the past is recognized by the Ancient Monuments Acts, and powers have been given under them to the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Works. But to ensure that adequate finance is provided, sufficient skilled temporary staff engaged, and sufficient information given to enable excavation schemes to be prepared, the full weight of public opinion will have to be brought to bear.

In connexion with this, the Council has a number of functions. In the first place, it must act as the organ of this public opinion, and offer its advice and co-operation to the appropriate authorities. In the second, it must either through the Central Council, or through the Regional Groups, draw attention to those areas in which ancient buildings and archaeological remains will require attention in any planning schemes. Thirdly, it must, through its Regional Groups and their constituent organizations, make arrangements for the recording and reporting of unexpected finds which may turn up in building operations, quarrying, or similar undertakings. Fourthly, it must co-operate in the provision of experts to undertake excavations and surveys, since this task will be too vast for the permanent staff of the Ancient Monuments Branch.

This immediate work of the Council is however only a beginning, though its urgency has been largely instrumental in calling the Council into being. There are many problems which will benefit from co-operative action and consultation. One of the most important of these is the contribution which archaeology can make to education, which is a subject to which too little attention has been paid in the past, and which is so intimately connected with the justification of archaeology as a study.

It is intended that the Council shall meet at least annually, and when normal conditions are sufficiently restored that these meetings shall take the form of Congresses held in different parts of the country. Meanwhile the meetings are purely for business, and are for the time being taking place in London, which is felt to be most convenient in war-time. An Executive Committee has been appointed to deal with urgent matters.

The President of the Council is Sir Cyril Fox, and the Secretary Miss K. M. Kenyon, Institute of Archaeology, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London N.W. 1.