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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Society Pages

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Obituary

GEORGE MORRIS ROBINS

The Society has sustained a great loss through the death of George Morris Robins on the 22 February 1963. To all who knew him well, he was affectionately known as Tommy.

He came from a well established Gloucester family and for the greater part of his life played a prominent part in the life of his city. He became a member of the Society in 1949 and from the very beginning played an active part in the Society's affairs. In 1956 he took on the onerous duties of Meetings Secretary and for seven years organized some of the happiest and most successful meetings ever enjoyed by the Society. All that he did he tackled with great enthusiasm. Although sadly restricted by the injuries he received in the first world war when he was twice wounded, he never once let this discourage him. It could be said of him that he 'stepped with pride over men's pity'. He was the most friendly of people. Whether organizing the field meetings of this Society, or performing his duties of chief steward in the Cathedral which he loved, or attending meetings of Church Assembly or watching a game of cricket, he always showed a tremendous interest in everyone around him. It is not only for what he did but above all for what he was that we shall remember him with affection and gratitude.

E.R.

OFFICERS, 1962-3

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GLYN E. DANIEL, M.A., F.S.A., LITT.D.

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ANTHONY A. SCOTT, T.D.

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MISS ELIZABETH RALPH, M.A., F.S.A.

HON. SECRETARY FOR BRISTOL:

F. G. WEBB

HON. TREASURER:

THE HON. W. R. S. BATHURST, T.D., M.A., F.S.A., F.G.S.
Cold Ashton Manor, Chippenham, Wilts.

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HON. AUDITOR:

H. G. M. LEIGHTON, M.A., A.C.A., F.S.A.

HON. EDITOR:

CAPTAIN H. S. GRACIE, C.B., M.A., F.S.A., R.N.

HON. MEETINGS SECRETARY:

G. M. ROBINS

TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY:

MISS ELIZABETH RALPH, THE HON. W. R. S. BATHURST, MR WILFRID LEIGHTON and MR ANTHONY A. SCOTT

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1962

The Eighty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Council House, Bristol, on Saturday, 10 March 1962 when Dr Joan Evans presided and the meeting was attended by 79 members. Apologies for absence were received from 20 members.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Society were presented and adopted. See pp. 226-8, 230-2.

The following amendment to Rule 3 was adopted:

'That members of the Society may nominate any members of their household living under the same roof for Associate membership at half the ordinary annual subscription, with full advantages apart from free copies of the annual *Transactions* and any special volumes issued free to members'.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Records Section were presented and adopted. See pp. 228, 233-4.

The following members of the Records Section were appointed: Hon. W. R. S. Bathurst, Dr Joan Evans, Rev. J. E. Gethyn Jones, Captain H. S. Gracie, Irvine Gray, Dr D. Dobson Hinton, Wilfrid Leighton, E. S. Lindley, Lt.-Col. A. B. Lloyd Baker, P. V. McGrath, Elizabeth Ralph, Dr Margaret Sharp.

Mrs E. M. Clifford, F.S.A., was made an Honorary Member for the distinguished services she has rendered the Society.

Dr Glyn E. Daniel, M.A., F.S.A., was installed as President of the Society for the year 1962-3.

Miss Elizabeth Ralph, M.A., F.S.A.; The Very Rev. Douglas Harrison, M.A., Dean of Bristol; Professor D. Talbot Rice, O.B.E., M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A.; Lt.-Col. Barwick Browne, F.S.A., were elected Vice-Presidents.

Members of Council, local Secretaries and Executive officers were elected.

Dr Joan Evans then delivered her Presidential address entitled 'Art in Gloucestershire'.

Members were entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor of Bristol.

REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1961

We are glad to report that during the year under review the membership of the Society has increased and the financial position has still further improved. The total membership is 629. Fifty-five new members have joined, of which 7 are institutional members and include Michigan State University, New England Historic & Genealogical Society, Institute of Archaeology, Southampton University. This is the greatest increase in institutional members that we have had for some years and shows an increasing appreciation by bodies outside the county of the high quality of the Society's transactions.

By death we have lost 13 members:

VISCOUNT BARRINGTON, T. C. BOULTON, MRS M. L. BROWN, DR E. BROWNE, G. N. BRUTON, MISS L. R. CARTER, MRS H. P. HARRISON, MRS H. J. LANGLEY-WEBB, PERCY LLOYD, MRS M. D. PHILLIPS, MRS E. SOPPER, RUSSELL THOMAS, PROFESSOR A. C. TYNDALE.

Whilst 23 members have resigned or been removed from the list of members.

Publications

The annual volume of *Transactions* was issued in two parts: the first part being devoted to a survey of Gloucestershire Barrows by Mrs O'Neil and Mr Grinsell.

This will be welcomed as a definitive survey of barrows in the county. In addition, the Society has made history by publishing in the same year 'The Gloucestershire and Bristol Atlas'. The Atlas has been well received by our members and educational bodies and distributed through many bookshops. The success of this venture is in no small way due to Mr W. L. King for his enthusiastic leadership which encouraged the members of the small committee to see the Atlas through to publication. We are also indebted to the Hon. Editor, Captain Gracie for having edited the volumes so skilfully.

Library

During the year, the Honorary Librarian, Mr Parrott, reviewed the whole stock of the Library and withdrew those books which were of little value to the Society, so that room might be made for additions. The Council has spent about £60 on new acquisitions. We are grateful to Mr Parrott for all the work he has done.

REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1961

The surplus stock belonging to the Society is now stored in St Mary's Gateway. We are extremely fortunate in having the services of Miss B. Chamberlayne, one of our members, who has kindly agreed to be responsible for the dispatching of orders. This has been a record year in which we have sold about £89 12s *od* of stock.

Excavations

Excavations have been carried out at Cirencester under the direction of Mr Wachter, revealing evidence of an early Roman fort and part of a Roman basilica, the form of which it is hoped to preserve by marking it out in ground plan.

Captain Gracie has begun excavating a Roman site at Frocester, where he has uncovered the main corridor and kitchen quarters of a villa.

Professor Ian Richmond supervised exploratory work done at Kingsholm, Gloucester, but this yielded no result.

Under the supervision of Mrs O'Neil the site of the Technical College, Gloucester, was excavated, revealing what is thought to be the bank of the legionary fortress and part of the Roman town wall.

The building development now taking place everywhere is threatening many of the Grade II buildings scheduled under Section 30 of the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947. In most cases, the Society is informed of the proposal to demolish the building. I say this advisedly as no notice was given of the intention to demolish the Spa Pump room at Gloucester, the destruction of which by the City of Gloucester the Council deplures. When notice is given, the property is inspected and where the Council thinks it advisable, representation is made to the local planning authority. Action has been taken in respect of No. 5 Charles Street, Bristol, property in Church Street, Tewkesbury and the Salmon Spring Brewery house at Stroud. The Gloucestershire Planning Authority has rejected a proposal to develop the site of the Abbey Church at Winchcombe. Your Council made representations and intends to do so again at the Public Enquiry.

It would seem that the future of Odda's Chapel at Deerhurst is to be satisfactorily safe-guarded. The Church Commissioners are prepared to hand over the chapel with an endowment for repair and care to a local trust. Your Council with other interested parties feel that the chapel should be in the care of either the National Trust or Ministry of Works. Satisfactory negotiations are proceeding.

The Council is anxious about the future of Bibury Mill which is in a bad state of repair and it is hoped to be able to find a user.

Excursions

Three successful excursions were made: the first in the Pauntley and Much Marcle area on 6 May, the second based on Reading, from 19–22 July, and the third in the North Cotswolds on 16 September.

To incumbents of churches and owners of houses for kindness in allowing the members to visit them; and to those who conducted us around the various buildings and sites, we record our thanks. To Mr and Mrs Robins and Miss Bailey we express our special thanks for their indefatigable work in organizing these meetings. We had an unexpected pleasure during the summer meeting when we visited Silchester and found that Professor Ian Richmond was still working on the Roman site there. We were privileged to hear first hand of the results of his excavation.

It was with regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Mr John Page, as Secretary for Bristol. For 8 years, he planned interesting lectures and excursions which were enjoyed by the Bristol members. The Council is grateful to Mr F. G. Webb for kindly undertaking the work entailed as Secretary for Bristol. Two happy and profitable meetings to Dyrham Park and Churchill Court were arranged during the summer. In the winter season four lectures were arranged at the Red Lodge:

‘Old Maps of Gloucestershire’, by Irvine E. Gray.

‘Hadrian’s Wall’, by Alan Warhurst.

‘The influence of the Mediaeval Tournament on the development of the English Theatre’, by Professor G. W. G. Wickham.

‘The Saxon Palace, Cheddar’, by Philip Rahtz.

Mr Robins and Miss Pillers organized two meetings for the members of the northern part of the county: to Beverstone and to Raglan Castle.

RECORDS SECTION

The committee met once during the year and re-elected their previous officers. Work has continued on all the projects in hand, and especially on the guide to parish records, now in proof; it is hoped this will be published by the end of the current year.

REPORT OF BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE 1961-2

The Bristol Archaeological Committee in its annual report, just issued, states that it has been engaged on many local projects during the past twelve months.

It has been especially interested in the proposed restoration of the grave of the local historian John Latimer, in Brunswick Unitarian Churchyard, and in the removal and preservation of the Hotwell pump. It has lent its support, also, to the suggestion that some means might be found of preventing from demolition the house in Wilson Street where lived Elizabeth Blackwell, England's first woman doctor. The Committee has been successful in drawing the attention of Bristol Corporation to the 18th-century fountain in Somerset Square. The need of making an inventory of all surviving foot scrapers and antique door knockers has not escaped attention. Much valuable excavation work has been done by the local archaeologists, Messrs Reed and Marochan, and some important finds have been brought to light.

Other items discussed included: St. James Parade, Baldwin Street Town Wall, Broad Quay Great Tower, Grave of Richard Savage, St. George's Road Effigies, Flood and Fire Plaques, Barton Hill Roman boundary stone, St. Peter's Church Pump.

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1961

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	INCOME	£	s.	d.
Transactions, Vol. 79. Part I	626	7	2				Subscriptions	589	19	8
Less Council for British Archaeology Grant	250	0	0	376	7	2	Donation—Society of Merchant Venturers ...	2	2	0
							Sale of Publications	89	12	0
Part II	868	13	8				Investment Income	611	9	3
Less Ministry of Works Grant	120	0	0	748	13	8	Bank Deposit Interest	45	7	11
							Income Tax recovered	267	16	4
Additional packing and postage				1	11	5	Refunds—per Hon. Librarian	4	1	
Postage—Volumes from stock ...				3	15	1				
				1130	7	4				
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS—										
Cirencester Excavation Committee	100	0	0							
Council for British Archaeology ...	2	10	0							
Council for Pres. Ancient Bristol	2	2	0							
Bristol Archaeological Committee	2	2	0							
British Records Association ...	1	0	0	107	14	0				
LIBRARY—										
Subscriptions	15	9	3							
Rent	15	15	0							
Binding	26	16	6							
Purchase of books, etc.	26	13	0							
Miscellaneous expenses	2	13	2	87	6	11				
Printing and Stationery				44	5	5				
Hire of Room—Shire Hall				1	10	0				
Hon. General Secretary—Postages ...				30	14	3				
Hon. Treasurer—Postages				9	11	11				
Storage and removal charges				56	14	6				
Insurance—Public Liability				3	10	0				
Cheque Book				10	0	0				
				1472	4	4				
Excess of Income over Expenditure ...				134	6	11				
				£1606	11	3				
								£1606	11	3

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXCAVATION FUND

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	INCOME	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Richard Reece—Cirencester	Countess Bathurst ... ..	...	...	...	2	0	0
Capt. H. S. Gracie—Frocester	Deposit Interest	2	7	10			
					1	9	10			
				Excess of Expenditure over Income ...				3	17	8
								4	2	4
								£10	0	0
								£10	0	0

MEETINGS ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	INCOME	£	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bristol Section Payments ... ..	...	...	...				GLOUCESTER SECTION—								
Less Receipts	55	16	4				Receipts	45	16						
	40	2	2				Less Payments	45	7						
				15	14	2									
FIELD MEETINGS—							FIELD MEETINGS—								
Summer Meeting Payments	368	13	5				Spring meeting—								
Less Receipts	336	13	0				Receipts	89	14						
				32	0	5	Less Payments	68	13						
DONATION—								21	0	10					
Silchester Excavation Fund							Autumn meeting—								
Cheque Books							Receipts	110	9						
							Less Payments	72	8						
								38	1	1					
Excess of Income over Expenditure ...				51	2	9							59	1	11
				8	8	6							£59	11	3
													£59	11	3

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December, 1961

LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
MEETINGS ACCOUNT—							INVESTMENTS—at Cost—							
Balance as at 1.1.1961	96	2	0				£1154 19 1 3½% War Loan							
Add Excess of Income over							(Market Value 31.12.61—£611)				808	6	8	
Expenditure	8	8	6				Bristol 5½% Mortgage				800	0	0	
				104	10	6	GENERAL ACCOUNT							
EXCAVATION FUND—							Cash at Barclays Bank Limited ...	543	14	8				
Balance as at 1.1.1961	189	16	0				Cash at Lloyds Bank Limited ...	57	2	9				
Less Excess of Expenditure over											600	17	5	
Income	4	2	4				Deposit Account				947	19	5	
				185	13	8	EXCAVATION FUND—							
THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE & BRISTOL ATLAS							Cash at Bank—Current Account	21	12	0				
Due to Printer				799	17	3	Deposit Account	64	1	8				
Subscriptions received in advance ...				16	16	0					85	13	8	
GENERAL ACCOUNT							MEETINGS ACCOUNT—							
Balance as at 1.1.1961	2952	14	4				Meetings Secretary—Cash at Bank				255	17	0	
Add Excess of Income over							Gloucester Section—Cash at Bank				38	4	0	
Expenditure	134	6	11				Bristol Section—Cash at Bank ...				38	18	2	
Transactions sold from stock	12	17	0				Hon. Librarian—Cash in Hand ...				5	4	7	
				3099	18	3	Hon. Librarian (Transactions)—Cash							
							in Hand					5	7	
							Sundry Debtors—Transactions					12	17	0
				4206	15	8	Sundry Debtors—'Atlas'				128	2	6	
ENDOWMENT FUND				14606	3	2	THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE & BRISTOL							
							ATLAS—							
							Expenditure to date	842	13	8				
							Less Sales	358	4	0				
											484	9	8	
							ENDOWMENT FUND—				4206	15	8	
							£2937 John Dickinson & Co.. Ltd.							
							Ordinary Stock				11307	0	0	
							500 Fleetway Publications 7%							
							Pref.				525	0	0	
							£1000 Imp. Tobacco 6% Pref. ...				937	0	0	
							£2199.14.3 3% Funding 1966/68				1837	3	2	
							(Market Value of above				£18812	18	10	
							Investments on 31.12.61 was							
							£20760.)							

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers produced to me and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

(Signed) H. G. M. LEIGHTON
Chartered Accountant

19 WHITELADIES ROAD, BRISTOL, 8.
13th February, 1962

£18812 18 10

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS SECTION

Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1961

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
John Bellows Ltd.—			Sales	16	13 9
Packing and Postage—Dymock Registers	4	3 7	Investment Income	114	10 0
Miss Elizabeth Ralph—Postages	1	18 7			
Depreciation—3% Savings Bonds	25	0 0			
Excess of Income over Expenditure	100	1 7			
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£131	3 9		£131	3 9

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December, 1961

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
LEGACY—Alfred Bruce Robinson deceased	5000	0 0	£2400 3% Savings Bonds 1955/65—		
			Market value	2159	0 0
			£500 4½% Defence Bonds	500	0 0
			£400 5% Defence Bonds	400	0 0
			Cash at Bank	169	3 8
			EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT—		
			Dr. Balance as at 1.1.1961	1871	17 11
			Less Excess of Income over		
			Expenditure	100	1 7
				<hr/>	
				1771	16 4
				<hr/>	
	£5000	0 0		£5000	0 0

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers produced to me and certify that it is in accordance therewith.

19 WHITELADIES ROAD, BRISTOL, 8.
13th February, 1962.

(Signed) H. G. M. LEIGHTON
Chartered Accountant

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
RECORDS SECTION

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SALES 1961—Bristol Marriage Licences	... .. 1 @		10	6			
	... .. 1 @		10	0			
			<hr/>		1	0	6
Gloucester Marriage Allegations	... .. 1 @		1	0			
	... .. 1 @		12	6			
			<hr/>				1 12 6
St. Augustine Registers	... .. 2 @ 12/6						1 5 0
Dymock Registers	... .. 1 @		1	10			
	... .. 2 @ £1.5.0.		2	10			
	... .. 3 ditto (U.S.A.)		4	0			
	... .. 1 @		1	0			
	... .. 6 @ 12/6		3	15			
			<hr/>				12 15 9
							<hr/>
							£16 13 9

SALES PROGRESS

		BRISTOL MARRIAGE LICENCES			GLOUCESTER MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS			ST. AUGUSTINE REGISTERS			DYMOCK REGISTERS		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1952-59	... .. 86		101	1 10	93		81 0 2	69		52 5 10			
1954-59	... ..				1		12 6	1		12 6	61		52 0 9
1956-59	... ..				2		1 12 6	2		1 5 0	13		12 15 9
1960	... .. 1			12 6									
1961	... .. 2			1 0 6									
				<hr/>									
				89			102 14 10						
							<hr/>						
							96			83 5 2			
										<hr/>			
										72			54 3 4
													<hr/>
													74
													64 16 6