

Essays in Bristol and Gloucestershire History



EDITED BY PATRICK McGRATH AND JOHN CANNON

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Bristol and Gloucestershire
History

*The Centenary Volume of the Bristol and Gloucestershire
Archaeological Society*

*Edited by
Patrick McGrath and John Cannon*

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Elizabeth Ralph

President of the Society in the centenary year 1976 and Secretary from 1948.

Photograph by G. Kelsry

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The Society 1876-1976

By Elizabeth Ralph

THE Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society came into being in 1876, a quarter of a century after similar societies had been established in many other counties, but at a time when there had been a change in emphasis in archaeological interests, which was reflected in the form the Society took and which has influenced its subsequent activities.

The initial Victorian interest in antiquarianism was stimulated by the Gothic Revival in ecclesiastical architecture and a realisation that ancient and curious objects could be found to illustrate the past history of the British Isles as well as the classical culture of the Mediterranean.

By the 1870s there was a new awareness of the contribution archaeological research could make to our knowledge of the surroundings in which we live. Sir John Evans, whose daughter was later to be a distinguished editor of our *Transactions*, was involved in constructing the framework of prehistory. During the same period General Pitt-Rivers, later in 1892 our President, was establishing the techniques of scientific excavation. In the field of conservation, the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings was set up in 1877, and in 1888 carried out a model exercise in church restoration on the thirteenth-century building at Inglesham, close by Lechlade. The intention was "not to pretend to put (a building) back into a state at which it may be supposed to have been at any given time, but to preserve, so far as is practicable, the record of what had been its state during all the period of its history".

This type of outlook was reflected by the decision to invite Dr. John Beddoe, Fellow of the Royal Society and a distinguished anthropologist, to be chairman of the first committee set up to consider the formation of the Society, and by the

Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol's comment at the inaugural meeting that the Society was not intended as a medium for "junktetings and picnics".

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, through the agencies it has been instrumental in establishing and through the efforts of individual members, has often shown itself in advance of accepted opinion in the past hundred years. It was responsible for the preservation of Arlington Row at Bibury, the Theatre Royal in Bristol and the Dutch House in Wine Street, Bristol, the latter sadly destroyed in the air raids of 1940. Its attitude on these occasions was regarded as either odd or obstructionist, but today there would be a public outcry if buildings of this kind were threatened with demolition. These are some examples of its work in a particular field; less spectacular, but not less important, have been the other activities described in the following pages.

When the British Archaeological Association visited Bristol in 1874, John Taylor, the City Librarian of Bristol, wrote a paper calling attention to the architectural and historical treasures of the area. This paper was publicly displayed in the City Library for the signatures of those who were interested. John Taylor's appeal and no doubt the learned dissertations and pleasant excursions enjoyed during the visit of the Association acted as a stimulus to local antiquaries to investigate more fully the many archaeological and historic sites with which Bristol and Gloucestershire abound.

Some thirty years before, a county archaeological society had been formed under the Presidency of Sir William Vernon Guise. It met with little support or encouragement and after four years the Society was dissolved and its archaeological interest absorbed in the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club, which had been established in 1846.

The fresh stimulus resulted in the setting up of a committee in Bristol under the chairmanship of Dr. John Beddoe to consider the formation of a Society. Mr. Palmer Hallett of Claverton, Bath acted as honorary secretary. In appointing a Fellow of the Royal Society as chairman, the members of the committee guaranteed that the work of this proposed society would be on a scientific basis and "that the new society meant neither dilettantism nor picnics nor any combination of the two". The

committee expressed the view that such an association for the investigation of the antiquities of the county on the model of those already established in the neighbouring counties of Somerset (1849) and Wiltshire (1854) would supply a real and long-felt need.

The first step was to appoint a provisional committee under the chairmanship of the Earl of Ducie, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. Under the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Dynevor, Lord Fitzhardinge, Lord Redesdale and Lord Sherborne, it issued a circular throughout the county, as a result of which over 400 people expressed their desire to become members. After some preliminary discussions, the committee called a public inaugural meeting on the 21 April 1876 in the Bristol City Museum, at which the committee reported on what it had already achieved. The Earl of Ducie presided over the meeting at which 67 persons were present, among whom were Sir John Davis, Sir William V. Guise, Sir Brook Kay, Sir John Maclean, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Bishop of Clifton, eighteen clergy, two Members of Parliament, the Mayor of Gloucester, seven doctors, seven women and a number of gentlemen from Bristol and Gloucestershire.

In opening the proceedings the chairman said that "the meeting had been called to see if they could collect the scattered fragments of archaeology which existed in the county and give them some sort of cohesion in the shape of an Archaeological Association". He pointed out "among the landed proprietors, among the local clergy and among the residents of such towns as Clifton and Cheltenham there must be many people who were fit to be members of such an association. From the labouring man who dug up an early tobacco pipe with the remark 'may it be as old as Moses' to the philologist who detected traces of a by-gone race in the radical elements of a language—all could contribute something, and if welded together might be of service to the Association."

Sir William Guise, who was to become the first President and who also served as President of Council for the first ten years, spoke of the literary treasures of Gloucestershire, complaining that the county archives though extensive were un-indexed and inadequately housed. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol

proposed that a Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society be established, and Sir William Guise seconded the proposal. There followed good-humoured comments as to the relative position of the names "Gloucestershire" and "Bristol" in the title of the new society. Sir John Dorrington of Lypiatt Park, later President, said "Bristol supplied a compact body of literary men, living within easy range of one another, having daily opportunities of meeting, libraries at hand, and all things necessary for the organisation of a society, whilst Gloucestershire brought to the society a scattered body of allies, ready to avail themselves of the organisation which Bristol created, and to supply the materials on which the society would work."

The provisional committee then reported that it had enrolled over 400 members and was able to say that the finances were sound. It had considered the question of organisation and had prepared a code of rules, based on those of other archaeological societies, both county and metropolitan. Whereupon the Hon. and Rt. Reverend Bishop of Clifton proposed that the Society's establishment be based on these rules and that they be referred to the Council when appointed. When considering the classes of membership, the committee was in favour of having a number of patrons who should be confined to members of the House of Lords having property or residence in the area and to members of the House of Commons representing it. This did not meet with complete approval and a nobleman to whom the Society, so it was said, "was more indebted than any other", on being asked to become a patron, replied by denouncing the name as "a relic of evil days". This caused concern and the committee was in great doubt whether to proceed, but having already had several letters of acceptance, found it difficult to change its policy. Consequently the Society was graced with twenty-one patrons.

The affairs of the Society were vested in a Council which met for the first time on 3 May 1876 under the chairmanship of Sir William Guise. This Council had a saving sense of humour and spoke of itself as self-elected, unrestricted and irresponsible, and open to all the temptations to which such bodies are liable. Truly a delightful condition of affairs, and, as Roland Austin said, "almost superior to the ideal committee of one".

The thirteen members present were the Mayor of Bristol,

J. R. Bramble, J. F. Nicholls, John Reynolds, John Taylor, Robert Lang (Hon. Treasurer), William Adlam, the Reverend Prebendary Scarth, the Reverend J. T. Ellacombe, the Reverend R. C. Nightingale, the Reverend Dr. F. W. Gotch, Dr. John Beddoe and Palmer Hallett. A Finance Committee was appointed, and the first banking account opened at Miles Bank, Bristol. At first the Council met every month and then irregularly until it decided to meet four times a year, which it has done ever since. Dr. Beddoe and J. R. Bramble with the secretary and treasurer formulated the first rules which remained substantially the same until 1918. The objects of the Society were set down as follows:

To collect and classify original and existing information on the antiquities of this district and to thus accumulate materials for an improved county history

To establish a library and museum for the preservation and study of these and other objects of antiquarian value

To promote by meetings, publications, etc. such an interest throughout the district in the monuments of its past history as shall tend to counteract their present liability to inconsiderate and needless destruction.

It is clear that from the beginning the Society's main concern, indeed its very reason for existence, was the preservation of sites and buildings of archaeological and historic interest at a time when there was no legislation for their protection. Neither the Office of Works nor Local Authorities had power or means to enable them to preserve any monument.

With these objects in mind the Council began its work. For the efficient running of the Society, the county was divided into nine districts, each district having a Vice-President and a local secretary. The constitution provided for the election of a President, Vice-Presidents, officers and a Council of thirty. Honorary members could be elected, the first being Professor George Rolleston, a distinguished professor of Anatomy and Physiology, who had taken a deep interest in the foundation of the Society and had done much to ensure the success of its first meeting. Field meetings were arranged in Bristol and Gloucester. These were organised by local committees set up in the areas to be visited. While the Council was happy to leave the

arrangements to a local committee, it always exercised the right to revise the programme. In 1876 a publishing committee consisting of J. D. T. Niblett, W. C. Lucy, John Bellows, F. S. Waller, the Mayor of Gloucester, S. H. Gael and C. S. Taylor made arrangements for the printing of the first volume of *Transactions*. Although the membership was only 513, it was agreed to print 750 copies. It was not until 1887 that the Society undertook its first excavation, but it is interesting to record that during the first year, the Council set up a committee to prevent the destruction of the tower of St. Werburgh's church, Bristol. A number of members, no doubt encouraged by the President's remarks on the preservation of the county's treasures, were keen to establish libraries and museums both in Bristol and Gloucester. Requests were made for books and archaeological objects. Through the efforts of Sir John Maclean, arrangements were made for the Society to exchange its publications with other learned bodies. In October 1876 the Council advised "that museums belonging to the society should be established in Bristol and Gloucester". Both cities offered accommodation, and it was agreed to accept. A small committee consisting of Sir William Guise, Dr. J. W. Caldicott, the secretary and treasurer was appointed to carry out the resolution. There had been controversy in Council about where the books and objects should be housed and some criticism of the composition of the committee. Five Bristol members, Dr. John Beddoe, Francis Fox, Thomas Kerlake, John Latimer and Edward Strickland, all influential men in the Society, wrote a letter of protest, questioning the Council's power to appoint so unrepresentative a committee. They stated that "Bristol was the headquarters of the society and the organ of intercourse and correspondence with other societies." In no uncertain way they expressed their disapproval: "we, being some of the original promoters of the foundation of the society therefore protest against this act of Council . . . in stifling the voice of a minority; also against the appointment of any place otherwise than within Bristol the birthplace of the society and by much the most important and considerable place within the society's district . . . believing that a persistence in such purpose may possibly involve the society in litigation or provoke a schism or both". Eventually another committee was appointed and its proposals accepted by Council. This meant that donors of books

and objects were to have the option of naming the place of deposit, that books and objects having special connection with Bristol or Gloucester were to be allotted appropriately, and the rest to be ballotted for. As time passed, the Society's library in Gloucester became the main library, for it was here that the publications of other learned societies were housed, while only books relating to Bristol were added to the library in Bristol. The setting up of museums was not thought sensible or profitable and the archaeological finds were deposited in the city museums of Bristol and Gloucester.

From the very outset the Society had many expert members, and it is therefore no wonder that, started as it was under such excellent auspices, it became influential. For ten years Sir William Guise was President of Council with Palmer Hallett as honorary secretary until he was joined by the Reverend William Bazeley as joint secretary, and later general secretary, from 1879 to 1907. In 1882 Palmer Hallett retired and suggested that one of the honorary secretaries should be resident in Bristol. The Reverend Dr. J. W. Caldicott, headmaster of the Bristol Grammar School, was appointed. Three years later Dr. Caldicott left Bristol and William Bazeley carried on alone until Canon C. S. Taylor became joint secretary in 1893. The Society owed much of its vigour and vitality to the guidance and energy of William Bazeley. In 1892 it recognised his work as honorary secretary for thirteen years by presenting him with a handsomely embossed two-handled silver bowl dated 1756 and a purse of gold. He continued as secretary until he became President in 1908. It was not so easy to get a treasurer willing and able to serve for any length of time. Between 1876 and 1909 there were no less than seven, each pleading that the duties occupied too much time. This is hard to understand when the total income in 1880 was £157 14s. and the expenditure much the same. It may be that the treasurers found the attitude of the editor intolerable. At one time Sir John Maclean refused to print the accounts in the form in which they were submitted. The treasurer declined to alter them, whereupon Sir John advocated the appointment of a chartered accountant to get them into proper order. The following year, the Council accepted the accounts, ordering them to be printed in the *Transactions*, but again the editor protested against the form and failed to print them. The Council

then instructed that the treasurer's accounts for 1890, 1891 and 1892 be printed on a single sheet and inserted in volume xvii, thus relieving the editor from all responsibility in the matter.

Sir William Guise, Sir John Maclean as editor, and William Bazeley ran the affairs of the Society, making most of the decisions, thereby dispensing with committees. In 1888 the auditors suggested to Council that the Finance Committee should be revived, that it should report regularly, that it should examine all bills before presentation to Council and should estimate the expenditure for each year. In 1890, the Council made a short-sighted decision to dispose of the surplus stock of the *Transactions* and in a rather dramatic way ordered that the volumes should be destroyed in the presence of Sir Brook Kay and Sir Francis Hyett.

The work of the Society, as indeed of similar organisations in other counties, was carried out without reference to any central body until 1888. In that year a union of archaeological societies in England with the Society of Antiquaries of London as a nucleus was proposed, with a view to the better organisation of archaeological research and the preservation of ancient monuments. Our Society was represented at the first Congress of Archaeological Societies, held at Burlington House. Because the records of British archaeology were scattered among the *Transactions* of so many societies, the Congress published a yearly index of titles of papers contributed to every archaeological society and other bodies publishing archaeological material in the United Kingdom. These annual indexes were issued with the *Transactions*.

When in 1896 the Society celebrated its twenty-first anniversary, it could number among its Presidents such names as Sir William Vernon Guise, Earl Bathurst, Thomas Gambier Parry, Sir John Dorrington, Sir John Maclean, Sir Brook Kay, Sir Henry Barkly, Lord Sherborne, General A. H. L. F. Pitt-Rivers, Lord Fitzhardinge and other able and learned men. The Council took this opportunity of inviting the Presidents to present their portraits to the society. Sir William Guise gave a portrait of his father and Miss Maclean of her father. The portraits were hung in the Society's library and ten years later the secretary reported that many other portraits had been

received from past Presidents. The custom appears to have ceased sometime before 1914. Unfortunately it has not been possible to trace the whereabouts of these portraits.

By 1898 a number of the Presidents had died including Sir William Vernon Guise who had directed the affairs of the Society with extraordinary enthusiasm, and Sir John Maclean whose greatest contribution to the Society was as editor of the *Transactions* but who, one suspects, exercised considerable influence on general policy. Although not a President, mention must be made of one of the distinguished Vice-Presidents, the Rt. Reverend William Hugh Clifford, Bishop of Clifton who died in 1893. He was the first President of the Clifton Antiquarian Club and a Vice-President of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. He took a great interest in our society, attending most meetings and frequently acting as guide on archaeological excursions.

The retirement of Canon Bazeley as honorary secretary in 1907 brought to a close the first phase in the Society's history. In paying tribute to his service, it was recorded that "by his skilful management, general ability and unfailing courtesy the whole activity of the society centred around him, with the result that the researches into the history and antiquities of the county have never waned". Although it was reported at a successful summer meeting at that time "that practically a new generation of archaeologists had taken the place of that which composed the society at its inauguration", Canon Taylor referred to the period as a "testing time" for the Society and observed that "the pioneers and leaders had passed away and that the men to take their places were not forthcoming". With the retirement of Canon Bazeley, a new secretary was found in Michael Lloyd-Baker who it was said "was a country gentleman with considerable leisure and reputed to possess organising ability". Four years later he resigned because of pressure of county work and also because he felt that he could not maintain Canon Bazeley's standards. He was the nephew of Colonel A. B. Lloyd-Baker, a most devoted member of the Society, who at the age of 94 still takes an active interest.

The outbreak of the First World War meant the curtailment of most of the Society's activities. The Council managed to meet once or twice a year and to hold its annual business meeting. In

1917 the President of Council, the general secretary, Arnold Eardley Hurry, and the treasurer, James A. Smith all retired.

With the appointment of Sir Francis Hyett, the title of President of Council was changed to Chairman and the tenure of office limited to three years. Roland Austin, who was the Society's librarian and local secretary for Gloucester, became honorary general secretary and asked if he might be responsible for collecting the subscriptions and keeping the accounts of the Society. Council agreed that he should collect the subscriptions, but appointed F. Hannam Clark as treasurer. So successful was Austin that all arrears of subscriptions, which amounted to £70, were recovered and the year closed without a single subscription owing.

In 1918 John E. Pritchard was elected President and in his presidential address took the opportunity for reviewing the work of the Society since its inception. Having been an active member since 1888, he was able to speak from personal knowledge of the Society's achievements. From 1901 until 1910 he had been secretary for Bristol and during the first year was responsible for the election of 55 new members. When he resigned, he was presented with a piece of plate to the value of £100, for it was said "that no one was more loyal or worked so constantly for the Society's interest and advancement". His care for the antiquities of Bristol can best be judged by the long series of "Bristol Archaeological Notes" printed in the *Transactions*. He kept an eagle eye on every excavation which took place in Bristol, and it may be said that whenever or wherever a hole was dug, Pritchard was a vigilant observer and, equally important, a careful recorder. He showed great vigour and pertinacity in opposing the threatened demolition of buildings of historic interest. In 1919, the Lord Mayor in welcoming the Society to Bristol spoke of the efforts of John E. Pritchard in saving from destruction such important buildings as the Dutch House, the old Board Room of St. Peter's Hospital, the Registrar's house adjoining the Cathedral and the Red Lodge. Pritchard was fully aware that the Society could not rest on its laurels and was ever-ready to give fresh stimulus. The effects of the war were such that a re-organisation of the Society's affairs was necessary, and the first major amendment of the rules was made. The districts were changed to the parliamentary divisions of the county, the

duties of the officers were more clearly defined, and conditions of membership set out in greater detail. The annual subscription was not increased, probably because of the decline in numbers during the war. However, Pritchard with his unflagging energy secured 93 new members in one year, many of whom were his own friends. To enable the Society to carry out excavations, he launched an appeal to establish an Excavation Fund. Within a year, £137 was contributed and an Excavation committee, of which he became both chairman and treasurer, was set up. It is therefore not surprising that he was asked to serve as Chairman of Council for a fourth year. It must be remembered that at this time Roland Austin was honorary general secretary and soon to become editor. They made an admirable combination and together revitalised the work of the Society.

When the Society celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, the membership, at 743, was as high as it had ever been. At a meeting on the 21 April 1926, Roland Austin gave a brief survey of the Society's achievements and closed with these words: "May we not expect that a similar report will be made on the 21st April 1976, though I fear that not many of those in this room will be able to hear it." Of those present in 1926, the following are still members—the Reverend E. P. Baker, Mrs. E. M. Clifford, Mr. I. V. Hall, Mr. C. Roy Hudleston and Colonel A. B. Lloyd-Baker. The 1926 meeting also included three people who were elected to membership in 1876: Walter Derham, Major H. M. Herapath and E. C. Sewell. Letters of greetings were read from four other members unable to attend: Canon J. T. Harding, Dr. J. E. Shaw, Colonel T. H. Yabbicomb and Mr. Ernest Hartland.

The year 1927 must have been a momentous one in the life of the Society for in September Roland Austin wrote to the Chairman of Council stating that he wished to be relieved of his many offices. Since 1917 he had been honorary general secretary, combining it with many of the duties of the treasurer; he had also been editor for five years. In addition he was the Society's librarian and had recently been responsible for organising the meetings. Major H. Stratton Davis was appointed secretary and continued so until 1935. He will be remembered for his work in connection with the Archaeological Trust and as an able guide on many excursions. Wilfrid Leighton, who at the time was

secretary for Bristol, became honorary treasurer. He was a capable and experienced treasurer and in 1933 became chairman of the Archaeological Trust, managing its financial affairs. As there was no suitable candidate forthcoming for the office of editor, Roland Austin agreed to continue.

The Society made history in 1929 by electing Miss Ida Roper the first woman member of Council. She was a recognised authority on the monumental effigies of the county. In 1931 her series of notes on the effigies of Bristol and Gloucestershire originally published in the *Transactions* was re-printed in a limited edition, handsomely bound. It is worthy of note that Mrs. E. M. Bagnall-Oakley, who also devoted her attention to the study of effigies, costume and embroidery was the first woman to address the Society and to write for the *Transactions* as early as 1894. In 1930 Mrs. E. M. Clifford was elected to the Council. She was to become one of the most important influences in the life and activities of the Society during the next thirty years.

The outbreak of hostilities in 1939 affected the work of the Society. The Council met and agreed that for the duration of the war, the affairs of the Society should be delegated to the officers, who were empowered to make such decisions as were necessary. Roland Austin who had been elected President was asked to continue in office for the period. Owing to the grave position of national affairs in the summer of 1940 the usual annual business meeting was, for the first time in the Society's history, not held. It was, however, agreed to continue publishing the *Transactions* as far as circumstances permitted. If the decision of Council to leave the affairs of the Society in the hands of the officers had been adhered to, the Society might have been spared the unhappy years of 1940-48. During this time the meetings of Council often resulted in lamentable incidents and much discord was caused by some members wishing to go against the will of the majority.

The years immediately after the war were difficult ones. The membership had fallen to 465 and subscriptions were not sufficient to meet the Society's commitments. The continued rise in expenditure and the cost of printing the *Transactions*, which was more than twice what it had been a decade before, caused much concern. The Excavation Fund, having made

contributions to the work being done at Whittington Roman villa and to the Bristol Exploration committee, was exhausted. Mrs. Clifford launched an appeal to replenish the Fund and received an encouraging response. There were also problems of administration as well as finance. When Wilfrid Leighton retired as treasurer, the Council found it difficult to fill the office. There were now fewer people with leisure time to spare and in the five years that followed there were three treasurers, until the Hon. W. R. S. Bathurst, who had been auditing the accounts, was persuaded to take charge. For twenty years he kept a careful watch on the Society's investments and finances, until his untimely death in a motor car accident in 1970. His task was made the more easy by the generous benefactions of Dr. Joan Evans in 1954, which provided the Society with an investment income which was of great assistance in financing the *Transactions*, supporting excavations and in preserving ancient buildings. In 1970 Mr. H. G. M. Leighton accepted the invitation to become treasurer, thereby continuing the connection begun by his father in 1918.

In 1948 Miss Elizabeth Ralph, who had been secretary for Bristol since 1943, became honorary general secretary. Two years later, Dr. Joan Evans accepted the editorship of the *Transactions*.

Since the 1950s the standing committees of Council have played an increasingly big part in the administration of the Society's activities. Alderman Hannam Clark of Gloucester was chairman of the Library committee for ten years until 1960 when Colonel A. B. Lloyd-Baker took over, followed by Mr. G. T. St. J. Sanders. For seventeen years Mrs. Clifford was chairman of the Excavations and Buildings committee, and when she retired in 1961 Major H. Stratton Davis carried on for four years, after which Mr. David Verey accepted the office. His chairmanship was particularly valuable at a time when much of the work of the committee was concerned with the conservation of buildings and sites. During the past year Dr. John Cannon has taken over the duties. In 1964 Wilfrid Leighton, who had been chairman of the Finance & General Purposes committee for sixteen years, retired and Mr. Patrick McGrath became chairman. As in 1876 the work of the Society today is carried out by its Council and officers, who endeavour to fulfil

the objects of the Society which have remained basically the same. Although it can no longer finance excavations, the Society continues to publish a comprehensive series of archaeological reports, subsidising them heavily. It has succeeded, in cooperation with public authorities, in preserving many historic sites and buildings.

For the sake of clarity and because the main objects of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society have continued unchanged for one hundred years, it seems best to treat each aspect of its work under a separate heading.

TRANSACTIONS

One of the objects of the Society has always been to publish papers on the records and history of Gloucestershire in general and the cities of Bristol and Gloucester in particular. Even a cursory glance at the volumes of *Transactions* will show that this purpose has, generally speaking, been carried out very fully, for there is hardly a subject concerning the county which has not received attention.

Though the Society has been established for one hundred years, the actual number of volumes does not coincide. The usual practice has been to publish one volume for each year, but circumstances made it necessary for the *Transactions* of 1895-96, 1896-97 and 1918-19 to be issued in three single volumes. In the case of the first two, this was done so that the *Church Plate of Gloucestershire* and the first accumulative index could be issued in lieu of the annual volume. During the Second World War, a special volume, *Rolls of the Gloucestershire Sessions of the Peace, 1361-1398* by E. G. Kimball was issued as volume lxii of the *Transactions*. An accumulative index came out in 1941 instead of a volume, and the *Transactions* for 1946-48 appeared as a single volume.

During the one hundred years, nine editors have served the Society, which must always deem itself fortunate that men and women of distinction have occupied the office. The first two volumes were prepared by an editorial committee, of which Sir John Maclean was a member and no doubt took the most active part. Of the first volume, 750 copies were printed at a cost of £100, John Bellows of Gloucester, an influential member of the Society, being the printer. When the second volume was

ready, tenders were received from printers in Bristol, Cheltenham, Exeter and Gloucester and it was that of Jefferies of Bristol which was accepted. This firm printed volumes ii to xvi. In 1883 a disastrous fire at Jefferies destroyed a large part of the back numbers of the *Transactions*. Fortunately twenty-five sets had been deposited at Bristol Museum, but it was necessary to reprint 250 copies of volume v, part 2 and the whole issue of volume vi.

In 1878 Sir John Maclean was invited to become editor and was responsible for fourteen volumes until 1894. The standard of editing achieved under his experienced guidance did much to enhance the Society's prestige. Sir John's particular interest was in historical documents, and during his period of editorship he contributed no less than fifty papers on a variety of subjects, including histories of manors, chantry certificates, inventories of church goods and Feet of Fines. He was able to draw on knowledgeable and enthusiastic members such as Dr. G. Rolleston, Dr. John Beddoe, John Bellows, John Taylor and John Latimer (the latter two being particularly concerned with the history of Bristol), Sir Henry Barkly, A. S. Ellis, G. T. Clark an authority on military architecture, the Reverend David Royce, Mrs. Bagnall-Oakley who was the first to work on the effigies of the county, and Canon W. Bazeley whose first paper appeared in volume ii of the *Transactions* and the last in volume xlvi. When Sir John retired, the Society recognised its debt to him by presenting him with a silver inkstand. The next editor was the Reverend (later Canon) C. S. Taylor, then vicar of St. Thomas, Bristol, but in 1896, he moved to Banwell and in consequence felt he should resign. Because of his great service to the Society since its inception, he was presented with Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, a very fine copy from the Ashburnham Library, purchased for £31 10s. Happily in 1899 he was able to resume the office. During the short break, C. Trice Martin of Clifton College undertook the supervision of volumes xx and xxi. The high standard set by Sir John Maclean was continued by Canon Taylor who contributed to nearly every volume. For volumes xv to xl he wrote twenty-three papers, some of considerable length. Sir John Maclean's resignation coincided with the termination of Jefferies as printers. Tenders were sought and that of Osborne of Gloucester was accepted but

only for one year. Canon Taylor asked for a Bristol printer to be considered and Messrs. Arrowsmith were appointed, agreeing to print at £3 5s. for sixteen pages.

In looking through these early pages, one cannot help being impressed by the industry of some contributors. When the first volumes of *Transactions* were issued, practically nothing had been published relating to the history of Gloucestershire for nearly seventy years. Such histories as Atkyns, Rudder, Fosbroke and Rudge had all been published during the eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries. Although there never seems to have been a dearth of contributions, at one time (1900) the editor wrote "the present state of the *Transactions* cannot be considered satisfactory. The volumes are in arrears and there is a lack of suitable material." He was referring to the publication of extracts from the Feet of Fines, which he considered more suitable for a Record Series than for the *Transactions*. He was disquieted by the fact that archaeological discoveries were not recorded. Severely rebuking those involved, he complained that "Things are found and lightly examined or not examined by any competent authority at all, and are forgotten. Excavations are made and no proper record is prepared." So depressed was he that he called for a revival of interest in the Society's work and pointed to the need for new members to take over the burdens that others had carried.

In 1914 Canon Taylor resigned and Dr. G. H. West filled the office for one year after which Dr. E. Sidney Hartland, a distinguished student of folklore and anthropology, became editor. His wide learning and experience as a writer brought great advantage to the Society's *Transactions* during the next seven years. These were difficult years with the rising cost of printing.

By 1920 the *Transactions* were costing as much as £240. Arrowsmith's of Bristol who had been the printers since 1894, at a time when the cost had been fixed at £125, including an honorarium to the editor, asked for a 45 per cent increase, submitting figures showing that even that advance was lower than that asked on other contracts in hand. Reluctantly, the Council sought competitive estimates and that of Titus Wilson of Kendal at £300 was accepted, with the decision to print one annual volume instead of the two parts. It had been customary to issue the first part in February and the second in July of each

year. However, what the volumes lacked in size they gained in quality. For at this time such men as Sir Francis Hyett contributed bibliographies of Gloucestershire sources; W. St. Clair Baddeley wrote on Romano-British history, Francis Were on heraldry, while his index to Bigland's *History of Gloucestershire* was a monumental task. In Bristol John E. Pritchard, year by year contributed his "Archaeological Notes" which were detailed accounts of what he observed as he walked round the city. Alfred Fryer published the results of his exhaustive survey of Gloucestershire fonts.

In 1923, owing to ill health, Hartland resigned and Roland Austin agreed to be editor. At that time he was already the Society's librarian and honorary secretary, combining with this most of the work of honorary treasurer. For twenty years he was editor, until he resigned in 1949 with the publication of volume lxxvii of the *Transactions*. During this period twenty-four volumes were issued under his scholarly care. Failure on the part of Wilson to produce the volumes on time caused Roland Austin to give the work back to Bellows of Gloucester, who printed the Society's *Transactions* until 1966 when the firm was taken over by Norman Bros of Cheltenham, who were in turn taken over by Greenaways who continued to print until 1973. Three accumulative indexes were done by Austin himself and are masterpieces of the art of indexing.¹ Few societies can be better equipped in this respect than our own. Roland Austin's services to the Society were acknowledged when he was made an Honorary member. The Council also decided that volume lxxviii should be dedicated to him as some recognition of his services.

The high standard of editorship set by Roland Austin made it difficult to find a successor. However, the Society was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Joan Evans. In 1956 she invited Captain H. S. Gracie to assist with the editing of volume lxxv and when in 1959 Dr. Evans was elected President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, she relinquished the office and Captain Gracie was appointed editor. He continued until 1973 when ill health forced him to resign. Mr. Brian Smith, County Archivist for Gloucestershire, then took over.

¹ The Society has continued to publish an accumulative index every ten years.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the *Transactions* a number of extra works have been published since 1883 when the first volume of the Berkeley Manuscripts was issued. In 1881 the Society approached Lord Fitzhardinge for permission to see certain records at Berkeley Castle with a view to publication. Sir William Guise, Sir John Maclean and John Taylor, City Librarian of Bristol, were allowed to inspect the manuscripts of John Smyth, steward at Berkeley Castle in the seventeenth century, together with the Register of the Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol. It was suggested that the *Lives of the Berkeleys* should be printed first and that Smyth's *Hundred of Berkeley* should follow. The books were to be privately printed for the members of the Society. To these proposals Lord Fitzhardinge agreed and an editorial committee with Sir John Maclean as editor was set up. Ambitious plans for publication were made which unfortunately were not realised. Three hundred copies were to be printed on hand-made paper and bound in vellum at a cost of £1 per volume to each subscribing member. The cost of printing the first volume was £300 and as only £153 was subscribed, it was with some disappointment that the Council was forced to abandon its original plans and effect some saving by binding the volumes in stiff paper covers at a cost of 9d. a copy. It was possible to publish the second volume in 1884 and in the following year, the third volume was issued. By then the total amount subscribed was £780 while the expenditure had been £911.

When, therefore, Sir John Maclean proposed that the cartulary of St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol should be transcribed and published, the Council was reluctant to take on further financial commitments. This valuable historical document has not yet been published and is available only to a limited number of students at the discretion of the Trustees. In 1892, Council closed the Berkeley Manuscript Fund and transferred the debt to the general fund, offering the remaining copies to members at the original subscription price of £3 for the three volumes.

It is not surprising that when in 1887 Lord Sherborne asked the Society to consider publishing the Winchcombe Cartulary in his possession, the Council hesitated to agree and appointed a committee to issue a circular letter inviting subscriptions. The

response was not good enough to meet the estimated cost of printing and the Council was compelled to decline. The Reverend David Royce had already transcribed and edited the cartulary and he took upon himself the whole responsibility of printing the manuscript, opening a subscription list to the general public. On his death, his widow offered the stock of unsold copies of *Landboc, sive Registrum Monasterii de Winchcumba*, nominally worth £199, for £100. The Council purchased the volumes "knowing that they were not likely to prove profitable to the Society and were calculated to give more trouble to the secretary and librarian, but felt obliged to consider favourably the offer on account of the magnificent gift to the society of Mr. Royce's archaeological library".

In 1889 *An Analysis of the Domesday of Gloucestershire* by C. S. Taylor, then vicar of St. Thomas, Bristol was published.

A proposal that the Society should cooperate with the British Record Society for the publication of early county records, as similar bodies elsewhere were doing, was rejected by the Council which thought it desirable to preserve its independence. A further suggestion to take on the work of the British Record Society as far as it related to Gloucestershire was also rejected. In the end it was agreed that for ten guineas a year the British Record Society would supply 500 copies of six sheets of records which would be issued with the *Transactions*. The first of these was the *Calendar of Bristol Wills, 1572-1792 and wills in the Great Orphan Books, 1378-1694*, edited by E. A. Fry and issued in volume xx, part one. This was a continuation of the work of T. P. Wadley, who in 1886 had published in three instalments in the *Transactions*, "Notes or Abstracts of the wills contained in the Great Orphan Book." After the Bristol wills were completed, the early *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* were printed. These continued to be issued until 1914 when the British Record Society decided that no further publications would be made.

After many years of work, *The Church Plate of Gloucestershire*, edited by J. T. Evans, was published in 1905 and sent to all members who had paid subscriptions for the years 1894-97. At a cost of £130, 500 copies were printed. In 1913, *A descriptive Catalogue of the printed maps of Gloucestershire, 1577-1911*, edited by T. Chubb, was issued in lieu of the *Transactions*, volume xxxv, part two.

The Bibliographer's Manual of Gloucestershire Literature, compiled by F. A. Hyett and William Bazeley, was issued to members in the years 1895-97 and was completed in 1916 by the publication of the *Bibliographical Supplement*. It takes its place as one of the best of our county bibliographies. Not content with this, Sir Francis Hyett, with the help of Roland Austin, Librarian of Gloucester, began to compile a bibliography of printed matter relating to men and women connected with the county and Bristol. This has never been published but is preserved in the Gloucester City Library. It is now more than three quarters of a century since *The Bibliographer's Manual* was completed, and since then a considerable collection of printed material relating to Gloucestershire and Bristol has been published. The Society might well consider printing a further supplement if someone will undertake the task.

It was not until 1932 that another additional publication appeared. This was *Bristol Church Plate*, by Canon R. T. Cole. Canon Cole generously contributed more than two thirds of the printing costs. The survey did not cover all the Bristol churches and when in 1964, S. A. Jeavons offered to prepare a catalogue of all the church plate in Bristol, the Society readily agreed to publish it. A year later S. A. Jeavons died and Mr. John Cooper agreed to complete the task. It is still in progress.

In 1935 the *Saxon Charters of Gloucestershire* by G. B. Grundy was issued to members. During the war years, the *Rolls of the Gloucestershire Sessions of the Peace, 1361-1398*, edited by E. G. Kimball, was issued as volume lxii of the *Transactions*.

The enthusiasm of W. L. King and Mr. Irvine Gray enabled the Society in 1961 to publish *A Gloucestershire and Bristol Atlas*, being a selection of maps and plans from the sixteenth century, including Isaac Taylor's large-scale map of the county. This volume was sold to members and the general public. In future, it is likely that all publications other than the *Transactions* will be undertaken by the Records Section.

ROBINSON BEQUEST COMMITTEE AND RECORDS SECTION

Through the generosity of Alfred Bruce Robinson, the Society received a legacy of £5,000 for the publication of parish records. He had been a member of the Society for about five years when he died in 1943, but it was not until after the death of

his widow in 1947 that the first instalment of the bequest was received.

In order to carry out the terms of the legacy, the Society appointed a committee, known as the Robinson Bequest committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. (now Sir) Anthony Wagner. In 1951 the committee was reconstituted as the Records Section with Dr. Margaret Sharp as chairman. Wilfrid Leighton, who drafted the new constitution and guided the committee through the difficult period of establishing a publishing policy, became the first general editor and supervised the publication of the first volume *Bristol Marriage Licence Bonds, 1637-1700*. Since 1953 Mr. Patrick McGrath has been general editor and has seen nine publications through the press. As a result of Mr. Robinson's generous gift, the Society has been able to publish three volumes of marriage licences and allegations, two volumes of parish registers, one volume of medieval churchwardens' accounts, one volume of settlement papers and a guide to parish records in Bristol and Gloucestershire, all records in which Alfred Bruce Robinson was keenly interested. In addition, volumes dealing with records other than parish records have been published. The first of these was *Local Government in Gloucestershire, 1775-1800*, by Esther Moir. This was followed by F. D. Price's edition of *The Commission for Ecclesiastical Causes within the Dioceses of Bristol and Gloucester, 1574*. By 1972 most of the legacy had been spent and the Council decided to continue these publications by means of direct grants from the Society's general funds and in 1973 the Records Section became a standing committee of Council. As Gloucestershire, unlike Bristol, has no record-publishing society this provision meets a great need.

EXCAVATIONS

The pattern of Gloucestershire field archaeology had already largely emerged many years before the founding of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society in 1876, by the discovery and publication of numerous chambered long barrows, now known to be neolithic, and Roman villas. A long barrow at Avening had been explored in 1809, and Hetty Pegler's Tump was open in 1821 and again in 1854; others explored included Nymphsfield (1862) and Rodmarton (1863). From the late seventeenth century onwards the discovery of

several Roman villas and other buildings had been published, including Daglingworth (1690), Woodchester (1793), Witcombe (1818), Wadfield (1863), and Chedworth (1866). Chambered long barrows and Roman villas remain the antiquities for which the county is chiefly distinguished and known far beyond its borders. In addition, *Archaeologia*, vol. 19 (1821) included an able account of Cotswold hill-forts by T. J. Lloyd-Baker, great-grandfather of one of our oldest members, Lt. Colonel A. B. Lloyd-Baker.

Soon after the Society was formed, the celebrated grave-group of the Early Iron Age was discovered on Birdlip Hill in 1879 and presented to the Gloucester Museum through the good offices of John Bellows.

The first excavation undertaken by the Society was the exploration of the Roman villa at Tockington Park in 1887. As the Society had no funds a special appeal was made and £42 subscribed. The work began under the guidance of Sir John Maclean and a full report with coloured illustrations of the pavement was published in the *Transactions*.¹

In 1899, the secretary, the Reverend (later Canon) William Bazeley wrote to the owner and tenant of Hayles Abbey asking for permission to carry out excavations on the site with a view to making a plan of its buildings and of saving the remaining cloister arches from collapse. This fine Cistercian abbey founded in the mid-thirteenth century had suffered three major fires, and after the dissolution the abbey was used as a quarry for almost three hundred years. Mrs. Dent of Sudeley Castle had constantly asked that something might be done to arrest the destruction but the opportunity was lacking until the Society decided to take action. William Bazeley with W. St. Clair Baddeley carried out the work, the Society making a generous contribution towards the cost. The excavations excited public interest and in that year 800 visitors came to the abbey. The following year, the Economic Life Assurance Society, the owners of the site, spent £50 in renovating an ancient barn to be used as a museum, while the Society met the cost of furnishing it. The ruins of the abbey and the contents of the museum were then vested in Trustees. Harold Brakspear, architect of Malmesbury Abbey, made a careful ground plan and published it with

¹ *TBGAS*, xii. 159-169; xiii. 196-202.

a report on the architecture in the *Transactions*.¹ Thirty years later, Sir James K. Fowler became Custodian of Hayles and with the experience gained as warden of Beaulieu Abbey, the mother house of Hayles, restored the site to decent order and built a more substantial museum to house the relics. In 1945 further excavations were carried out which revealed almost the whole plan of the abbey.² In 1948 the site was given to the National Trust and later the Trust vested the property in the Ministry of Works, now the Department of the Environment, which has recently re-furnished the museum.

In 1903 W. St. Clair Baddeley excavated the Roman villa at Ifold, Painswick, which had been discovered in 1868.³ His report is an account of each day's work with photographs and plan. The finds were few but included an important R.P.G. stamped tile which was later described and published by F. J. Haverfield.⁴

It was reported to the Society in 1906 that the Roman villa at Witcombe was in danger. This villa had been accidentally discovered in 1818 and excavated by Samuel Lysons.⁵ The site was on the estate of W. F. Hicks Beach who had taken steps to protect the tessellated floor, but it was now in need of further care. The Society issued an appeal which raised £180 and erected wooden buildings over the pavements. Within five years more damage was done by visitors walking over the floors and thereby loosening the tesserae and so it was decided that three floors should be taken up and relaid, but apparently this was not done, although a public appeal was made in 1912. Seven years later the villa was taken over by H.M. Office of Works and the balance of the fund which had been collected in 1912-13 was handed over. In 1938 Mrs. E. M. Clifford was asked by the Office of Works to re-excavate prior to consolidation of the fabric and the work continued until the outbreak of war in 1939. As soon as it was possible, a report on the excavation was published.⁶ Since then the Ministry of Works has devoted several weeks each year to further excavations which we hope will continue until the whole has been examined and conservation undertaken.

¹ *TBGAS*, xxii, 257-71; xxiv, 126-35. ² *TBGAS*, lxxv, 187-98.

³ *TBGAS*, xxvii, 156-71. ⁴ *TBGAS*, lii, 229. ⁵ *Archaeologia*, xix, 178-83.

⁶ *TBGAS*, lxxiii, 5-69.

In 1910-11 the Society through the President, Canon Bazeley, superintended the excavation of Hucclecote villa where the finds included a dozen or so bronze coins dating from A.D. 360 to A.D. 390 and tiles with inscriptions several of which were unknown. The finds were placed in Gloucester Museum and Canon Bazeley sent a note to *The Times*.¹ In 1933, C. de Lisle Wells invited Mrs. Clifford to re-examine the site, which proved to be of greater interest than was at first thought.²

The only work of excavation in which the Society participated in the following year took place at Sea Mills Farm on the Kingsweston estate, Bristol, where trial trenches were dug with a view to locating the whereabouts of a Roman site believed to exist in the neighbourhood. The trial digging produced only some twenty-five coins and one or two bronze ornaments. Ten years later when the site was to be developed as a housing estate, Professor E. K. Tratman carried out further excavations which confirmed that Sea Mills was a Roman station. Again in 1934, 1937 and 1938 further excavations took place under the guidance of Dr. D. P. Dobson. When in 1945 it was known that the only land yet undisturbed was to be built upon, Mr. G. C. Boon excavated the site.³

During the war years of 1914-18 the activities of the Society had ceased and when peace came, the difficulty of obtaining labour at a reasonable cost prevented the Society from undertaking any active work. However, in 1920 John E. Pritchard proposed that an Excavation Fund be set up with an Excavation Committee, of which he became first chairman. When therefore in 1922, the discovery of a Roman pavement in Victoria Road, Cirencester was reported to the Society, the Council was able to make a grant towards the excavation which was supervised by W. St. Clair Baddeley. At the same time a length of walling in the workhouse grounds at Cirencester was excavated by him but the results were inconclusive.⁴ Although it was generally believed that the earthworks surrounding the town were remains of defences of the Roman period, it was not until 1952 when Miss D. M. Rennie excavated the site on behalf of the Ministry of Works that it was established that the

¹ *The Times*, 22 Feb. 1911. ² *TBGAS*, lv, 323-76.

³ *TBGAS*, xlv, 192-201; lix, 302-23; lxi, 202-23; lxvi, 258-95.

⁴ *TBGAS*, xlv, 100-20.

construction was A.D. 175-200.¹ The result of this excavation raised the question of the probable site of the Dobunni tribe in this area. Mrs. Clifford, therefore, undertook the excavation of a site at Bagendon which proved to be their headquarters. The full report of this excavation was published in 1961 as *Bagendon: a Belgic Oppidum* by E. M. Clifford.

Because of the importance of Cirencester, the Roman city of *Corinium*, and the developments which were taking place there, the Society of Antiquaries in 1958 sponsored the formation of a Cirencester Excavations committee to direct emergency excavations in advance of building operations. Professor (Sir) Ian Richmond became the first chairman, Captain H. S. Gracie its honorary secretary and work began under the direction of Miss K. M. Richardson. Since the formation of the committee the Society has been pleased to make contributions each year.

The Roman villa at Chedworth discovered in 1864 has been of much interest to the Society. Indeed the Society may claim to have saved it by the initiative which it took in 1923 through W. St. Clair Baddeley in raising the subscription necessary to acquire the property and placing it in the care of the National Trust.

In 1924 the Society financed excavations at Chapel Haye, Churchdown undertaken by R. W. Murray and J. W. Barnard, then secretary of the Society's Excavation committee. Chapel Haye is a field of about six acres in which in 1904 St. Andrew's church was built. A great number of skeletons were found which, in the opinion of Sir Arthur Keith, were fourteenth century in date.²

In conjunction with the Cotteswold Field Club, the Society in 1925 undertook major excavations on Leckhampton Hill camp and the nearby round barrow, agreeing to meet the cost of labour from its Excavation Fund. The work was done with great care by W. H. Knowles, J. W. Gray, A. E. Paine and E. J. Burrow who published reports in the *Transactions*.³ Recently further excavations on Leckhampton Hill have been undertaken as part of a programme of research excavation on the hill forts of the Cotswold scarp in the Cheltenham region. An

¹ *Antiquaries Journal*, XXXVII, 206-15.

² *TBGAS*, lv, 277-84. ³ *TBGAS*, lviii, 81-112.

interim report on the first stage by Sara T. Champion has been published in the *Transactions*.¹

For many years the farm buildings at the east end of Deerhurst church, and on the former chancel or sanctuary site were a matter of concern to the Society which always thought it desirable that the site should be cleared and the area excavated to find the plan of the apse and contiguous buildings. In 1926 W. H. Knowles, with the approval of the Society of Antiquaries and our own Society, obtained the consent of the Trustees of the Croome Estates and under his supervision, with the necessary funds raised by the Society, work began. The results gave great satisfaction and a full report was printed in the *Transactions*.² This report, like all those by W. H. Knowles, is an example of acute observation and experience, and was the more valuable for the exact drawings and plans included. In 1971 Mr. Philip Rahtz began further excavations on this site.

Belas Knap long barrow, which is now in the care of the Department of the Environment, is visited by a great number of people each year, being one of the finest and most complete examples in this country. It was opened between 1863 and 1865 when a series of chambers containing human remains was found, but unfortunately the excavation was inadequately supervised and the barrow was left in an unsatisfactory condition. The Society, anxious about the state of this important monument, approached the owner Colonel Fairfax Rhodes, who agreed to convey the site to the then Office of Works. This was done in 1928. There had been investigations by various people before a lengthy excavation was carried out by Sir James Berry for the Office of Works in 1929 and 1930. The Society raised the necessary money by public appeal, and Sir James uncovered a laterally chambered barrow with three (possibly four) chambers and a horned entrance with dry stone walling.³ Later the Office of Works restored the barrow to its present form by using the evidence which the examination had produced.

In 1930 the Society published the results of many years' work by Mrs. Clifford at Barnwood. In passing it should be noted that her comprehensive report was acclaimed as a model of how such investigations should be recorded in that Mrs. Clifford had

¹ *TBGAS*, xc, 5-21. ² *TBGAS*, xlix, 221-58.

³ *TBGAS*, li, 273-304; lii, 123-50.

enlisted the help of the foremost authorities on its various sections. Today this is normal practice.¹

The Presidency of W. H. Knowles (1930), a noted architect of Newcastle upon Tyne who had taken an active part in excavations on sites along the Roman Wall, and had retired to Gloucestershire, introduced a remarkable stimulus, for in his Presidential address he urged the Society to undertake excavations on a sensible scale at a site of major importance such as Gloucester or Cirencester. This led to the formation of the Roman Gloucester committee which included Sir Mortimer Wheeler and R. G. Collingwood. From that date until the outbreak of the Second World War, interim reports on this work, compiled largely by W. H. Knowles were published in the *Transactions*. His second suggestion, that systematic excavation of some barrows be undertaken, was in fact carried out, as far as long barrows are concerned, by Mrs. Clifford at Notgrove, Nymphsfield and Rodmarton; and during 1939-1945 this work was continued by W. F. Grimes at Bibury and Hampnett.

The observant eye of Miss Helen Donovan (Mrs. O'Neil) led to the discovery and excavation of a Saxon weaver's hut at Bourton-on-the-Water, which was published by G. C. Dunning with assistance from Miss Donovan.²

The problem of Spoonley Wood and Wadfield Roman villas has been with the Society since 1889. It was hoped that the Archaeological Trust might have taken care of it but while the committee was of the opinion that the preservation of these remains was of the highest importance, the cost of clearing the site and the difficulty of access made it impossible for the Trust with its limited funds to take over the property, even if it had been found legally possible. Sir Charles Peers, the Chief Inspector of the Office of Works, visited the sites and also decided that it would be impossible for them to take action. By 1944 the site and protective buildings were in a deplorable state and so the Society agreed to give £150 towards the cost of immediate repairs for which Thomas Overbury was in charge. Appeals were made for more money and the Pilgrim Trust gave £100, but by 1952 it was felt that further work would be misplaced and so the £100 was returned to the Trust, the members of the Society cutting down the ivy and other growth and covering the

¹ *TBGAS*, lii, 201-54.

² *TBGAS*, lviii.

pavements. While carrying out this work it was found that two of the pavements had previously been extensively restored.

In 1933 the Council noted with concern that the practice of carrying out excavations on important sites by enthusiastic but often inexperienced archaeologists was increasing. This enthusiasm for archaeological research was in many ways a most satisfactory sign, but it was pointed out that in some cases irreparable damage could be done by excavators who neglected the work of survey and record. The Council drew the attention of members to the fact that the Society was recognised by H.M. Office of Works as the proper authority for dealing with archaeological matters in the county and stressed that among its members were archaeologists of experience and national repute who were willing to advise and assist in properly authorised work. At this time and indeed during the 1920s and 1930s most of the excavations were carried out by members of the Society who met their own expenses, the Society only being able to offer comparatively small grants unless special appeals were made. The Society did of course meet the costs of publishing the reports of the excavations in the *Transactions*. The activities of most of the other county archaeological societies followed a similar pattern between the two wars.

In 1934, the Society visited Notgrove long barrow when Mrs. Clifford drew attention to the neglected state of this important monument which was unfenced and being trampled on by people and cattle. Sir Alan Anderson offered to protect it by enclosing it with stout railings. Later Mrs. Clifford excavated the barrow which proved to be a much larger monument than the existing plan revealed. At the west end a stone-built "rotunda" with a burial cist in the centre was discovered. The finds were presented to Cheltenham Museum, to join those presented by Witts in 1881, from his excavation there.¹

In 1936, Mrs. Clifford excavated the earthworks at Minchinhampton, Amberley and Rodborough as a result of which she deduced that they constituted a formidable scheme of defence and were built in the Early Iron Age.² The following year she excavated Nymphsfield long barrow and showed that the monument had a single cruciform plan and not double as formerly

¹ *Archaeologia*, lxxxvi, 119-61.

² *TBGAS*, lix, 287-307.

believed.¹ In the same year (1937) an excavation was begun on the medieval moated manor at Prestbury by Miss H. Donovan and Major J. G. N. Clift, and was carried out at intervals until the work was suspended by the outbreak of war in 1939. Excavations were resumed in 1951 at the invitation of the Ministry of Works.²

Rodmarton long barrow had been excavated by Samuel Lysons in 1868 and the skeletons which were then found were given to the Museum of Human Anatomy at Cambridge while the other finds were acquired by the British Museum. In 1939 this site was re-excavated by Mrs. Clifford and Professor Glyn Daniel, with important results.³

It was at this time that W. H. Knowles resigned as chairman of the Excavations committee and Mrs. E. M. Clifford who had been involved in a number of excavations in the county became chairman. The outbreak of war in 1939 meant of course an end to excavation work.

By 1943, an extensive amount of air-raid damage had been done in many parts of the country and it became clear that when reconstruction took place at the end of hostilities, archaeologists would be faced with problems of great magnitude and complexity. At the same time opportunities would arise for obtaining historical evidence from the excavation of bombed sites. With this in mind, the Society of Antiquaries convened a meeting of representatives of nearly all the archaeological societies as well as those of institutions and universities to consider the formation of a Council for British Archaeology. Such a Council would speak with authority both to the general public and to the government. In 1944 the Council for British Archaeology was founded as the central element for the planning of post-war archaeology in Great Britain. The Society, which had been a member of the Congress of Archaeological Societies, automatically supported the newly-established Council which assumed the functions of the Congress. Wishing to secure the fullest representation of archaeological interests throughout the country, regional groups were formed, each group being represented on the Council. Within five years the status of the

¹ *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, N.S.4, 188-213.

² *TBGAS*, lxxv, 5-34.

³ *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, N.S.6, 133-65.

Council as the body representing British archaeological opinion received official recognition in the form of a grant-in-aid from the government. The grants provide for subsidising archaeological publications by constituent bodies and this Society has received several generous contributions.

After the war, the task of providing adequate funds to cover the cost of excavations was beyond the scope of most county societies. It was soon realised that money would have to be raised by public appeal if the desired excavations were to be carried out on the bombed sites in the heart of the ancient city of Bristol. The Lord Mayor thereupon launched an appeal and as a result the Ancient Bristol Exploration Fund was established which provided money for excavations to be carried out on the castle site and on sections of the town walls. Mr. Kenneth Marshall who directed the work of the last season prepared the report which was published in the *Transactions*.¹

Although the Society was no longer able to sponsor excavations, several of its members carried them out at their own expense with perhaps a small grant from the Society. What remained of the Ivy Lodge round barrow at Kings Stanley was excavated by Mrs. Clifford in 1948. Some twenty years earlier it had been largely destroyed by the removal of stones to repair adjacent walls; it was here that the Woodchester beaker was found. Other finds included a coin of Constans A.D. 337-50, a bronze brooch which Sir Cyril Fox judged to be about A.D. 50-75 and skeletons which Sir Arthur Keith said belonged to the Romano-British period. The excavation revealed that while the cairn was built by the beaker folk, it was later used for Romano-British burials.²

In the same year (1948) extensive excavations were begun by Mrs. H. O'Neil on Whittington Court Roman villa through the kindness of Mrs. Evans Lawrence. It proved to be of three periods ranging from late 1st or early 2nd century to the 5th century demonstrating that life in Roman houses in this area continued until then.³

Most of the excavations both in Bristol and Gloucestershire were now being organised by the Ministry of Works or by Local Authorities. Members of the Society superintended or took part in many of these. Such excavations as that at Rodborough

¹ *TBGAS*, lxx, 5-50. ² *TBGAS*, lxxix, 59-77. ³ *TBGAS*, lxxi, 13-87.

Common by Miss D. M. Rennie,¹ Prestbury Moat by Mrs. O'Neil² and various excavations in Bristol are but a few examples.³ The watchfulness of Mr. R. W. Knight, a member of the Society, led to the discovery near Tormarton in July 1968 of the skeletons of two young men who had been killed by being attacked, one from behind, by warriors armed with socketed spears of a type used between 1000 and 950 B.C. The skeletons and bronze spearheads were presented by the landowners, the Duke of Beaufort and Mr. B. B. Blake to Bristol City Museum. This find is here mentioned because only one other comparable find is known from the United Kingdom (Dorchester-on-Thames).⁴

In 1969 the construction of the M5 motorway provided an opportunity for archaeological investigation, and to this important work under the supervision of Mr. P. J. Fowler, the Society was able to make a generous grant, subsequently printing the reports in the *Transactions*.⁵

In 1973 a Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS) was set up to manage with the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in the Department of the Environment the large grants of money made by the Government for 'rescue archaeology' in the three counties. The Society is one of the bodies represented on the committee. In the same year the Avon Archaeological Council was established to promote the archaeological interests of the newly-constituted County of Avon. As the new county included within its boundaries the City of Bristol and the southern part of Gloucestershire, the Society became a constituent part of this Council.

PRESERVATION OF SITES AND BUILDINGS

From its very beginning the Society has been concerned with the preservation of important and historic sites and buildings in Gloucestershire and Bristol. In the early days when there was no legislation or statutory powers, the Council of the Society found itself often as the sole objector. Through the collective efforts of interested and informed members it was successful in getting

¹ *TBGAS*, lxxviii, 24-43. ² *TBGAS*, lxxv, 5-34.

³ *TBGAS*, lxxix, 221-86. ⁴ *TBGAS*, xci, 14-17.

⁵ *TBGAS*, xc, 22-63; xcii, 21-81; xciii, 101-130.

sites protected and buildings saved from destruction. It would be rash to suggest that the Society accomplished all that it hoped for.

In 1882 strong protests were made to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol concerning the proposed destruction of the Minster House in College Green, but without success. On the other hand, John E. Pritchard was able to save the Registrar's House near the Cathedral. The Society was also successful in 1889 in preventing the conversion of the old church plate of Dursley into what was called "suitable vessels". When the tower of Westbury College, Bristol was threatened with destruction in 1893, the Society with the support of the Society of Antiquaries of London alerted the public to the fate of this building and through the liberality and public spiritedness of Arthur Shipley of Westbury-on-Trym, it was purchased and vested in Trustees for the use of the parish. The tower was in a bad state of repair and when a public appeal was launched for the necessary funds, the Society made a worthy contribution.

Between the years 1888 and 1909 the camps of Durdham Down and Stokeleigh in Leigh Woods on the other side of the river Avon were in danger. Through the generosity of Captain G. D. Wills, a member of the Society, the Stokeleigh camp and part of Leigh Woods was made over to the National Trust while another part was vested in the Leigh Woods Trust, on which the Society is represented. The woods are now held in trust for the enjoyment of the public and recently proposals have been made for the area to become the Avon Gorge National Nature Reserve.

In 1912 when H.M. Commissioners of Works approached county councils to furnish lists of monuments in danger of decay, the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society gladly accepted the invitation to prepare lists of ancient monuments worthy of permanent protection in Gloucestershire. Although the lists were submitted, little came of them and such buildings as Llanthony priory, St. Oswald's priory and others continued to lack proper protection because of inadequate funds. After years of agitation by the Society, the City of Gloucester bought the ruins of St. Oswald's priory and the land adjacent and now the latter has been scheduled. It is also about to complete the purchase of Llanthony priory.

Before the establishment of Diocesan Advisory committees, the Bishop or the Chancellor of the diocese sought the opinion of the Society on many matters relating to churches. In 1917 the Chancellor asked advice on the removal of the two pulpits in Berkeley church and in 1919 on the removal of the Hicks family monuments in Chipping Campden church. In 1921 the Society urged the Bishop of Bristol to set up an Advisory committee, expressing the hope that the Society might be represented. Members have served on both the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Advisory committees and at present two members, Mr. David Verey and Mr. H. G. M. Leighton, are the respective chairmen. These committees meet generally on a monthly basis to consider proposals contained in petitions for faculties and archdeacon's certificates and to assist parishes which apply voluntarily for advice. When in 1926 the Bishop of Bristol set up a committee to enquire into the future of the city churches, he invited the Society to nominate two members to serve and J. J. Simpson and A. C. Powell were appointed.

In 1920 the Society urged the Town Trustees to resist any proposal to remove the Market Hall at Dursley which is such a distinctive feature of the town. Representations were made to the owners of the New Inn, Gloucester that in carrying out the necessary repairs proper regard be given for the preservation of the character of its elevation. But again without legislation the Society depended entirely on the goodwill of the owners.

As a result of the Town Planning Act of 1919, urban authorities of 20,000 or more population were required to prepare planning schemes, and in 1925 the Bristol and District Joint Planning committee asked that a member of the Society should serve on the committee. Five years later when the Cheltenham Borough Council was preparing its Town Planning scheme, it paid particular regard to the Society's request that important archaeological sites should be preserved, and W. H. Knowles and D. W. Herdman prepared lists of scheduled buildings. It was not however until the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932 that provision was made for the preservation of buildings. The Society appointed a committee to consider and advise on any matters which might arise under the provisions of this Act. The listing of buildings was tackled in a methodical way, the local secretaries seeking the help of members in their districts.

By 1939 most of the county and Bristol had been done. The lists for Bristol which had been prepared under the guidance of J. Ralph Edwards were to prove most valuable in 1940 after the heavy raids on the city when a number of the listed buildings were destroyed.

The Town and County Planning Act of 1947 made the first real attempt not only to list buildings of architectural and historic interest but to grade them. The Society was asked to assist in the compilation of such lists. Aware of the magnitude of the task, a joint committee with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Gloucestershire Panel of Architects was set up and with the help of experienced members such as Mr. David Verey, Mr. H. F. Trew and Mr. Thomas Overbury and others such lists were prepared. By the end of 1952 more than half the local authorities in the country had lists of scheduled buildings and Gloucestershire was well covered. In 1956 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed to send to the Council for British Archaeology notices in respect of proposed demolition of listed buildings, and these notices were then to be passed on to the county society. This has made the task easier, for it has ensured that the Society has been informed of all cases. Hundreds of applications have been dealt with by the Excavations and Buildings committee. In 1971 there was an alarming growth in threats to listed buildings and Gloucestershire came third in the country with 49 per cent more applications than in 1970. The next year the county dropped to fifth position. The Society has frequently found itself at variance with those responsible and has not hesitated to voice its criticism. At Public Enquiries it is regularly represented and without the expert knowledge and keenness of a few of its members, little could be accomplished.

Throughout the county in rural and urban areas alike, many cottages and small houses still survive. Although not of great architectural merit, they are of importance as representing the domestic architecture of the area. A majority of the threats arise from proposed re-development of property and road improvements. This is particularly so in some of our market towns, such as Dursley, Stroud and Wotton-under-Edge.

It is now possible to look back upon twenty-five years of planning legislation designed to protect buildings of historical

and architectural interest. Societies such as ours engaged in conservation tend to complain about the weakness which still exists but it must be acknowledged that there has been real progress since the first Town and Country Planning Act. There are in the county buildings which are not protected by this Act, such as St. Oswald's priory, Blackfriars in Gloucester, and Odda's Chapel, Deerhurst. It was with great satisfaction that the Society learned in 1963 that the Ministry of Public Building and Works had taken into guardianship the remains of Blackfriars and Odda's Chapel.

One of the most interesting projects which the Society undertook was the complete restoration of Stoke Orchard church with the uncovering of its wall paintings. In 1949 Sir Arthur Clapham visited the church with Mrs. Clifford and was greatly impressed by its beauty and interest; he agreed to be one of the signatories to a public appeal made by Mrs. Clifford for funds to repair the buildings and uncover the wall paintings. The appeal was successful so that the fabric was repaired under the supervision of H. Stratton Davis without cost to the fund and the paintings uncovered by Mr. Clive Rouse. The National Coal Board which occupies Stoke Orchard Court gave valuable help in photographing the paintings. Without the assistance of the Society the task would have been impossible for a village of less than 400 people.

It can be said that in every case of preservation or reparation, members have taken an important part, and in some cases have been solely responsible for the success attained, which has often been secured largely owing to the feeling that the influence of the Society has been behind those members.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

In 1928 the Royal Society of Arts suggested Arlington Row, Bibury which had been acquired by them should be cared for by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. Thereupon the Council considered the proposal and decided to form a Trust, inviting members of the Society to subscribe and become members. With the aid of funds raised jointly by the two societies, the Trust cared for this group of picturesque houses for twenty-one years. Its success was due almost entirely to the efforts of its two chairmen J. J. Simpson and Wilfrid

Leighton. The Trust was also fortunate in having two architects H. Stratton Davis and H. F. Trew as its honorary secretaries.

When the Trust was established, it was hoped that other property and objects of archaeological and architectural interest would come under its control—a hope that remained unfulfilled. Sites such as the Roman villas at Spoonley Wood and Wadfield were offered to the Trust but could not be accepted owing to lack of funds.

By 1946 it became apparent that the Trust had not the money to keep Arlington Row in good repair and that within a few years it would be faced with considerable expenditure in providing amenities such as electric lighting and improved water and drainage facilities. It was felt that the management of the property would be better in the hands of some body such as the National Trust. After protracted negotiations, Arlington Row was conveyed to the National Trust in 1949. This course was made possible by the generous grant of £1,000 by the Pilgrim Trust, with the promise of further assistance when the cottages needed to be modernised. It was however largely through the efforts of Wilfrid Leighton, chairman of the Archaeological Trust at the time, that £3,000 was raised which enabled the National Trust to accept Arlington Row, the future of which is now so satisfactorily assured.

GLOUCESTER ROMAN RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In 1930 W. H. Knowles in his Presidential address summarised what was known of Roman Gloucester and urged a re-awakening of interest in the subject and the organisation of active research. The Council of the Society appointed a committee of persons representing the civic life of Gloucester and its scientific societies, and including persons of prominence interested in the history of Gloucester. Its function was to study the antiquities of Gloucester associated with the Romano-British period and to secure their preservation; to prepare a complete survey of the Roman site, and, as opportunity permitted to investigate its remains by excavation. An executive committee was appointed under the chairmanship of W. St. Clair Baddeley with Mr. L. E. W. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt as honorary secretary.¹

¹ *TBGAS*, liii, 267-84.

Excavations began in the school grounds of the Crypt school and later, on the Barbican, Bon Marché and Upper Quay Street sites. W. H. Knowles supervised this work and his excellent and careful reports are published in the *Transactions*.¹

During the Second World War all activities were suspended. In 1946 the Council proposed that the Gloucester Roman Research committee be resuscitated in view of the opportunities likely to occur for making investigations on sites of buildings scheduled for demolition. Mr. Fullbrook-Leggatt was elected chairman. And so with the City Museum, the committee helped to sponsor several important excavations on the sites of Nos. 1-5 King's Square, Friars Orchard and the King's school garden, all of which were done under the supervision of Mrs. H. E. O'Neil.

In 1967 the Gloucester Roman Research committee ceased to exist as such, being reconstituted as the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group.

THE LIBRARY

One of the original aims of the Society was to form libraries both at Bristol and Gloucester, the donors of books having the right to choose the place of deposit. During the first year the Society established friendly and co-operative relations with other county archaeological societies which resulted in the exchange of publications. In order to help the Society in its efforts to establish a library, the Royal Archaeological Institute presented a complete set of the *Archaeological Journal*; the Society of Antiquaries gave the current series of its *Proceedings* from the year 1859; and the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland with equal liberality gave the fourth series of its *Journal* whilst the Monmouth and Caerleon Antiquaries Association donated a copy of the *Roman Antiquities of Lydney Park, Gloucestershire*. There is little doubt that these acquisitions were obtained through the enthusiasm and influence of Sir John Maclean. Many members also gave books. The first

¹ *TBCAS*, lvi, 65-81; lix, 37-38; lx, 166-168. One find, a limestone head of a man, dated first century A.D. has received national notice. The Roman head has Celtic elements and the sculpture is evidently a local product. (Mortimer Wheeler *Roman Art and Architecture*, p. 218).

list of books was printed in the *Transactions* of 1880 and thereafter a list appeared each year.

By 1886 it became apparent that the dividing of the Society's books between Bristol and Gloucester caused great inconvenience and it was decided that there should be one library and that it should be housed in Gloucester Museum. The number of books added to the library so increased that the accommodation became inadequate, and in 1895 the Society's books were moved from the Gloucester Museum to John Bellows' house in Eastgate, Gloucester, where the Society shared a large room as a library with the Cotteswold Field Club. Rules were drawn up for the use of the library and the secretary was responsible for the care of it. The books were to be kept under lock and key, the secretary was to prepare a catalogue, a copy of which was sent to every member. The library was open once a week for the purpose of issuing books. At that time £25 was spent annually, £10 being paid to the Librarian, £10 spent on binding and the purchase of new books and £5 to the Gloucester Museum.

In 1902 the library was greatly enhanced when Mrs. Royce presented her late husband's archaeological books to be kept as the Royce Memorial Collection. This important collection still forms the basis of the Society's library. Canon David Royce of Stow on the Wold was a noted scholar and his collection of books and manuscripts is witness to this. Because his interests were wide, the books cover general antiquities, architecture, campanology, ecclesiology, ethnology, folklore, genealogy and heraldry.

Due to the efforts of John E. Pritchard a library was formed in Bristol and was housed in the Society's Bristol Room at the Literary and Philosophic Club in Berkeley Square, Bristol. It was here that the Bristol members of the Society met for lectures and *conversazioni*. The first list of books was printed in the *Transactions*. When in 1921 the Society held meetings at the Red Lodge, Bristol, its Bristol library was transferred there. Twelve years later the library was moved to the City Museum.

Once again the accommodation at Eastgate, Gloucester became inadequate and the Society was hard pressed to find suitable premises. Prolonged discussions with the City authorities for rooms within the Public Library continued for about

three years. In 1913 arrangements were made for the Society's library to be housed in a room in the Public Library under the supervision of the library staff. This meant that the library would be accessible daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. These excellent arrangements were due to the influence and assistance of Roland Austin, then City Librarian. He became the Society's first librarian and the Society owes him a great debt. After his appointment a library committee was established to manage and supervise the library and an annual grant was made from the Society's funds to buy new books. He was responsible for the first catalogue of what then numbered 3,000 books which were valued at £1,000. It is interesting to note in passing that the cost of moving that stock of books by Roland Austin's assistants was 12s. 9d. For nearly forty years Roland Austin was the Society's librarian, during which time he built up a fine library. On his resignation, P. W. Bennett took over and in 1956 was succeeded by Mr. A. J. I. Parrott. On his retirement Mr. V. A. Woodman was appointed. When the library was moved to St. Michael's Rectory, opposite the City Library, in 1957, the stock of books was 5,728.¹ The Society is indebted to successive City Librarians of Gloucester who in turn have looked after the library. Both the Society and the city of Gloucester have derived mutual benefit from this arrangement.

MEETINGS

From the very beginning, visits to places of interest in Bristol and Gloucestershire played a big part in the activities of the Society. This is not surprising for Gloucestershire is one of the loveliest counties in England, full of beautiful villages, interesting market towns, noble churches and fine manor houses, all set in gentle landscape. Also the county can boast of having more than its share of historical monuments.

At first a summer meeting of three or four days' duration was held. This was followed by two winter meetings, one at Bristol and the other at Cheltenham or Gloucester. When the winter

¹ They are in a pleasant room which serves the purpose of a reading room for members of the Society. There are a considerable number of books on Bristol and Gloucestershire. Added to these are many books giving background material for the study of local history and a wide selection of county histories.

meeting of 1881 was held at Cheltenham, the extreme inclemency of the weather made it impossible for many members to attend because the roads and railways were impassable from drifted snow. The following winter meeting was not held until April 1883 and thereafter became known as the spring meeting. The one-day autumn meeting was not introduced until as late as 1937. In the early days some of the districts, particularly the West Gloucestershire district of the Society, were very active and arranged one or two meetings each year.

In 1903 evening meetings began in Bristol and Gloucester and in 1905 extended to Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. At all these meetings papers were read on archaeological and historical subjects and were often accompanied by exhibitions of local antiquities or of special collections made by individual members. A local committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements but later one person, the Meetings secretary, became responsible.

The first summer meetings was held in Gloucester on the 23 August 1876 when Sir William Vernon Guise of Elmore Court presided and 100 members were present. At the business meeting, Robert Lang, the Treasurer, who held office for one year, reported that the newly-formed Society was financially sound with a balance of £672, despite the heavy expenses incurred in its inauguration. In his Presidential address, Sir William Vernon Guise spoke of the labours of such men as Stukeley, Dugdale and Lysons in preserving so much of the past. He said that "it was only within the last 40 years or so that archaeology—the scientific study of antiquities had been pursued in a systematic manner by large bodies of enquirers associated for a common purpose".

At the close of the business meeting, John Bellows, the head of a distinguished firm of printers in Gloucester, guided the party round the city, tracing the Roman wall. Afterwards the members visited the Cathedral under the guidance of J. D. T. Nibblett and F. W. Waller. In the evening the first of the Society's dinners took place at the Bell Hotel at a cost of 4 shillings excluding wines. After dinner three papers were read. On the next day, the members left the hotel in brakes to visit Deerhurst and Tewkesbury where the Mayor gave a sumptuous luncheon in the grounds near the Abbey. That evening eight

papers were read! One of the attractive features was the temporary museum where members displayed a large variety of interesting exhibits. On the third day, members went by a special train to Berkeley, where Lord Fitzhardinge invited them to inspect the castle; and after visiting the church, one hundred members had lunch at the Berkeley Arms Hotel. This was the first of many delightful summer meetings at which the annual business meeting was held. In 1953 the annual meeting was divorced from the summer meeting and held alternately in Bristol and Gloucester, usually on a Saturday in March. The change of date allowed more members to attend and hear the Presidential address.

In 1877 the summer meeting was held in Cirencester when the Rt. Hon. the Earl Bathurst was President. This was a sad occasion for Lord Bathurst died during his year of office. It is worthy of note that he gave his Presidential address at the age of 87.

When the Society met in Bristol in 1878 "upwards of 100 people assembled at the Queen's Hotel, Clifton at 10 o'clock. Some delay occurred in starting, in consequence of the fine morning having tempted a larger number to join in the excursion than was expected, and hence additional carriage accommodation had to be provided; but, through the exertions of Mr. John Reynolds, the conductor of the excursion, this was soon obtained, and at about half past ten the whistle gave the signal to start, and a somewhat long train of four-horse brakes and wagonettes and private carriages passed through Whiteladies Road and across Durdham Down to Westbury-on-Trym."

Cheltenham was visited in 1879 and on that occasion the auditors drew attention to a debit balance of £57 "arising in a great measure to the heavy expenses incurred there" and asking that "greater vigilance should be exercised to curtail expenditure at the annual meetings". One of the places visited was Birdlip where the party had luncheon at the Black Horse Hotel (now a private house). It was here that the Cotteswold Field Club had been formed in 1846. The Reverend Mr. Brown gave a long dissertation on the Roman campaigns of the district, after which he conducted the party to the site which he believed to have been a British village close by. It was, however, "considered that Mr. Brown was mistaken in his theory". The time occupied

in this investigation rendered it necessary to abandon the intended visit to the church and castle of Brimpsfield.

The following year an invitation was received to meet in Stroud for which occasion it had been arranged to uncover the Woodchester pavement, for the first time for many years. To meet the additional costs, the local committee suggested that the general public be admitted to the *conversazione* in the evening on payment of five shillings for gentlemen and three shillings and sixpence for ladies. It proved a popular meeting with at least 200 persons present. The President (John Dorrington) gave a diversified address on the Stroud area describing life in the hills from prehistoric times to the present day. At the close of the annual meeting, the party at once proceeded to the carriages which were drawn up in front of the Subscription Rooms and here the first mishap occurred. The carriages were engaged to convey a certain number of persons but while the meeting was taking place, a great many additional tickets were issued to persons who had given no notice to the secretaries, consequently no provision had been made for their accommodation. These, and some persons who had no tickets, took possession of the carriages and so when it was time to start there were about twenty members and ladies left in the street. Another brake was soon provided and with the addition of a fly sufficient accommodation was found. Then the second mishap took place. As they began to climb the hill to call at Bownham Park "the fly drawn by a single horse and containing Sir William Guise, Mrs. Elwes and another lady and gentleman got as far as Butter Row when the horse refused to go any further and after repeated attempts the driver said 'he could not get him to go on, and he must leave the party in the road and return home'." This he did and the ladies and gentlemen sat down at the road side where they were found three-quarters of an hour afterwards by Mr. Halliwell, who hearing of their misfortune at once drove to their assistance. These detailed accounts of the excursions are printed in the *Transactions*.

On the visit to Tintern and St. Briavels, the writer reported "The weather was perfect, showing beautiful examples of sunlight and shadow. The shadows of the flying clouds chased each other over the broad expanse, whilst the whole river in some places appeared to be black as ink and in others glistened like a

silver mirror." Today, high printing costs have removed from the reports such poetic descriptions of the scenery.

Members often received gracious hospitality when visiting country houses. At the Chepstow meeting 1881, the Society was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Marling at Sedbury Park when "the tables were abundantly supplied, not only with tea and its concomitants but with wine and the choicest fruits of the season for those who preferred refreshments of that nature".

Travelling around the countryside in horse-drawn brakes restricted the limits of their daily wanderings to what now seems a very small area. The journeys were made in a leisurely manner, often stopping to breathe the horses, giving an opportunity for enjoying the beauty of the countryside. Sometimes journeys were made by train and the railway companies were particularly accommodating. In 1885 the Midland Railway Company was asked to stop the express from Gloucester at Ashchurch. When visiting Newnham, the Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway Company conveyed the members by a special train through the Forest of Dean to Lydbrook Junction and from there to Kerne Bridge and Symonds Yat where an excellent lunch "was most ably served by host Davis." After lunch, the party rowed down the Wye. In 1886 members visited Deerhurst leaving Gloucester on the "Berkeley Castle" steamboat and making their way up river to Deerhurst Pier.

When General A. H. L. F. Pitt-Rivers was President, the Society held its annual meeting jointly with the Wiltshire Natural History and Archaeological Society at Cirencester. The summer meeting of 1894 was held at Ledbury, the second time in three years. They met in the ancient Town Hall and conducted their business amidst the cries of the market hucksters underneath. The President Michael Biddulph received the members at the Lodge where "the gardens were prettily illuminated and an excellent selection of music was played".

In 1898 the Society visited London for a week and the attendance was greater than at any other meeting. For a county society to pay an organised visit to London was a great achievement. But under the Presidency of Sir John Dorrington and a committee of distinguished men, the visit was bound to be a success. The Middle Temple was visited under the guidance of

Judge Baylis, Sir John Stuart Knill talked about the Guildhall, Lord Dicton showed members round the Tower of London, whilst Sir Christopher Turner described the city churches.

The summer meeting at Tewkesbury in 1902 was claimed to be the most pleasant and instructive gathering ever held under the auspices of the Society. Practically a new generation of archaeologists had taken the place of that which composed the Society at its inauguration. Because of the big attendance it was suggested that membership of the Society be limited to 500, but this proposal was rejected and a steady increase in membership continued. The popularity of the meetings was due no doubt to efficient organisation and good leadership. For every meeting a programme with archaeological notes was issued. These notes for many years were prepared by Canon Bazeley and usually occupied thirty pages. Lodging arrangements were always made: a single room with attendance was 2s. 6d. and a double-bedded room, 4s. Luncheon was served at 2s. 6d. and table d'hôte breakfast was available at 2s. The cost of the annual dinner in 1905 was still 4s. exclusive of wine. Such men as Canon Bazeley and W. St. Clair Baddeley acted as guides. With many experts in the field, discussions at these meetings were lively. It has been said that on the rare occasions that these two men agreed, one could be sure of reaching eternal truth. Many amusing incidents are recorded. On one occasion when visiting a parish church to see some newly-discovered medieval frescoes they were aghast to find that the sexton, having been directed to see that everything was bright and clean, "had been smitten with the unhappy inspiration of white washing over the frescoes because they made the wall look so dirty and patchy".

When in 1911, some members asked to be allowed to travel in motor cars because the coaching and railway facilities were not convenient, the Council reluctantly abrogated the rule, asking that due care should be taken to avoid inconvenience to those members travelling in horse brakes. It was not until 1914 that the motor charabanc first appeared to take members round the Warwickshire countryside in the last summer before the war. From 1914 to 1918 only the one-day annual meeting was held, but after the war, a two-day summer meeting took place in Bristol in July 1919.

The summer meeting of 1920 was at Malvern when Earl

Beauchamp as President invited the members to Madresfield Court, where they were entertained to tea and shown a specially-arranged exhibition of silver, deeds and books. In the same year arrangements were made for a meeting at Chepstow and Tintern, but owing to the impossibility of obtaining motors and accommodation for lunch and tea, the meeting was abandoned. The difficulties caused by the railway strike made it necessary to cancel the spring meeting in 1921. The summer meeting was held jointly with the Royal Archaeological Institute in Gloucester. This was the first meeting planned by Roland Austin and was acclaimed a great success. When, however, Austin became editor in 1923, J. J. Simpson agreed to relieve him of the work and organised his first meeting at Tetbury and Malmesbury.

In 1923 the meeting which was to have been at Chipping Campden was at the last moment postponed owing to an epidemic of smallpox which had prevailed in Gloucester for some months and because of "natural apprehension felt by the residents of Campden at visitors from the infected area coming in their midst".

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Society, the spring meeting was held in Gloucester on 21 April 1926. By this time Roland Austin was again Meetings secretary and when in 1928 he asked Major H. Stratton Davis to take on the office of honorary general secretary, Stratton Davis would only do so if the two offices were separated. Therefore Thomas Overbury, an architect with an intimate knowledge of Gloucestershire and the surrounding counties, consented to become Meetings secretary provided that he had sole responsibility and control for the arrangement and conduct of the spring and summer meetings. He arranged a number of excellent visits, often acting as guide. The meetings became increasingly popular and were attended by unusually large numbers of members. Thomas Overbury was helped by W. H. Knowles and G. McNeil Rushforth, who shared the work of preparing programmes. This exceptional "triumvirate" came to an end first by the resignation of Thomas Overbury in 1934 and then by the death of G. McNeil Rushforth in 1938 when the Society lost one of its most distinguished members, a man who rendered services of no ordinary kind. Gordon McNeil Rushforth became

a member in 1920 and immediately interested himself in the planning of the meetings of the Society, taking an active part in the preparation of the itineraries. For him an archaeological meeting was no mere picnic or excursion: it was a serious task, including much preparation and research. In his wide knowledge of a number of subjects, especially ecclesiastical glass, its provenance, history and heraldry, he was excelled by no one. He knew the great churches of France and could always draw upon them for comparison. Rushforth had a most attractive manner and all who knew him valued the association. He contributed important papers to the *Transactions* on the glass of Gloucester Cathedral, Tewkesbury Abbey and the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol. His writing is characterised by exact information, perfect finish and lucid style.

When Thomas Overbury resigned as Meetings secretary, the office was vacant for two years, until E. W. Lovegrove took over. Although not a young man, he carried out this arduous task with great enthusiasm. In 1937 he arranged an autumn meeting which became a regular part of the annual programme. In 1938 the Society visited Northampton. Not since 1898, the year of the famous meeting in London, had the Society ventured so far. He continued until the outbreak of war in 1939 when the autumn and spring field meetings were abandoned. It had been planned to arrange a summer meeting in 1940 to prevent the Society from becoming moribund, but even this, intended "as a mere shadow of the usual full programme", had to be cancelled in view of the possibility of invasion. All routine work was delegated to the officers for the duration of the war and only annual general meetings held.

After the war, Colonel Barwick Browne, a retired Indian Army officer with experience in organising meetings, was appointed. His efficient organisation was appreciated by members. He arranged many splendid meetings taking the Society to Banbury, Lichfield and Salisbury. The summer meeting at Lichfield was a memorable occasion. For the first time the Society had elected a woman President, Mrs. E. M. Clifford, and E. W. Lovegrove who was nearly 80 years of age acted as guide, describing the churches of Tamworth, Repton, Barton-under-Needwood and Lichfield Cathedral with great vigour. The following year, when Lady Apsley was President, she

invited the Society to hold its annual meeting at Cirencester Park when she read her Presidential address and entertained the members to a fork supper.

By 1955 Colonel Browne felt that he must resign and George M. Robins took over the onerous duties. With the help of his wife for seven years he organised some of the happiest and most successful meetings. It was during his time that the Society began to stay in university halls of residence rather than in hotels. On his retirement in 1962, Mr. Paul Page was appointed. His first meeting, which was centred on Withington, made history, when seven houses were visited in one day. For the first time, the Society visited the Gower coast under the guidance of the President, Dr. Glyn Daniel. At the summer meeting in Oxford the following year, the Society was fortunate in enlisting the aid of its President the Very Reverend Douglas Harrison, then Dean of Bristol and Professor Ian Richmond, two Oxford men. They not only acted as guides but gave delightful informal talks in the evenings after dinner. For the most part, the Society depended on a few of its members to act as guides at the various meetings. One such distinguished member was W. I. Croome, who for several years was guide on visits to the churches in Gloucestershire. When he died in 1967 the then Dean of Gloucester the Very Reverend Seriol Evans said of him: "It was his love of the church and of all beautiful things expressed in the work of men's hands, combined with an eagerness to impart to others from the stores of his own experience that was the source of his inspiration." We shall not easily forget the tall and dynamic figure that stood beneath many a Gloucestershire chancel arch to address the Society.

When Mr. Page resigned in 1968 the first woman Meetings secretary was appointed. Miss G. R. Wright held the office for only two years before her tragic death in a motor car accident. Miss Dulcie Bailey, who for ten years had helped with the administration of field meetings, took over the whole task.

After the war when field meetings began again, the Council dropped the practice of including in the *Transactions* the descriptive notes which formed a valuable record of the Society's excursions and lectures, and were enjoyed by those members unable to attend the meetings. However, in 1964 the Council somewhat reluctantly agreed that reports of the meetings

should be printed. These have proved most useful as a record of many delightful excursions. It has not been possible to describe all the meetings and indeed detailed accounts of the visits made during the past twenty years would be out of place, for many members will remember them with much pleasure.

To supplement the field meetings there were evening lectures. On the 22 December 1903 the first evening meeting was held in Gloucester. Francis F. Fox, who was President of Council, presided and read a paper on Roods and Rood Screens, illustrated by means of the magic lantern and lime light. H. Medland followed with a talk on the various buildings which had stood on the site of the Wilts. and Dorset Bank at the Cross in Gloucester. Members subscribed five shillings for each meeting and received two tickets for reserved seats. Carriages were to be ordered for 9.30 p.m. Then followed a series of winter lectures. Later the subscription varied and by 1914 the general public could purchase tickets at one shilling for each lecture. For ten years H. T. Bruton of Gloucester, a partner in the firm of Bruton and Knowles, organised these successful meetings which attracted large audiences. In 1913 Roland Austin took over and so began his long and distinguished service to the Society.

At about the same time, similar evening lectures were arranged in Bristol. Begun by John Latimer, they were continued by John E. Pritchard until 1910, when Lewis Upton Way carried on until 1914. No meetings were held during the war years, either in Gloucester or Bristol, but when they were resumed in Bristol on the 17 November 1919, Wilfrid Leighton became secretary for Bristol. From 1920 the meetings were in the Red Lodge at Bristol. The tickets which were issued stated that Morning Dress would be worn and that coffee would be served from 8 to 8.10 p.m. In 1924 Sir Charles Oman while President gave one of the evening lectures in Bristol and on that occasion a dinner was held in the Red Lodge in his honour. The charming menu card still survives and is signed by those present. They dined on Clear Turtle Soup, Tranches of Salmon, Vol au Vent of Sweetbreads, Roast Golden Plover, Benedictine Jelly with Apricot Cream, Foie Gras on Toast, and Dessert.

Evening lectures continued to be held in Bristol and Gloucester until about 1936 when attendances at these meetings

declined so much so that Mr. C. Roy Hudleston, who was then secretary for Bristol, was reluctant to continue them. From 1937 to 1944 no evening meetings were arranged. In 1943 Miss Elizabeth Ralph was appointed secretary for Bristol and she arranged both winter lectures and evening field meetings which have continued with great success through the efforts of successive secretaries for Bristol. It was not so easy to organise these meetings in Gloucester. From time to time Mrs. E. M. Clifford arranged a lecture either in Gloucester or Cheltenham, but it was not until Mr. Robins agreed to take over that much success was achieved. However, it became increasingly difficult to get support for evening lectures in Gloucester and after 1958 only afternoon or evening excursions in the summer have been held.

Of necessity this is no more than a brief account of the activities of the Society during the past one hundred years, but it is fitting that such a record should be compiled. The contribution which the Society has made during this period to historical knowledge, the development of archaeology and the preservation of buildings in Bristol and Gloucestershire is an important one and has been due to the energy and enthusiasm of its members. Today the membership at over 800 is higher than it has ever been. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society can look forward with confidence to another century of useful work.