

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

THE 74th ANNUAL REPORT 1928

We are pleased to be able to report that the Archæological Society well maintained its prosperity throughout the year 1928, during which the following ladies and gentlemen were elected to membership :—

- In January :— Mr. Alfred Ernest Rossiter, 156 New Walk,  
Leicester
- In March :— Miss Hobill, The Nook, Huncote, Leicester
- In May :— The Rev. G. E. Alvis, St. Peter's Vicarage,  
Mountsorrel, Loughborough  
Mr. Oliver A. Batten, Meadowcourt Road,  
Leicester
- In June :— Mrs. R. B. Hall, 29 Gotham Street, Leicester  
Mr. J. W. Black, Manor Croft, Ratcliffe Road,  
Leicester
- In September :— Mr. Victor Pochin, Barkby Hall, Leicester  
Mr. Harold Hunt, 22 Victoria Park Road,  
Leicester  
Dr. Frank Stedman Poole, Blaby Road, South  
Wigston, Leicester
- In October :— Mrs. Hogg, Woodhouse, Loughborough
- In November :— Mrs. E. V. Phillips, Kibworth Beauchamp,  
Leicester  
Mr. G. E. Ellis, Forest Edge, Leicester Forest  
East, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester
- In December :— Mrs. Catto, The Old Rectory, Narborough,  
Leicester  
Mr. H. W. Hallam, Egglesburn, Letchworth  
Road, Leicester

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The Rev. Canon Devereux, Kegworth Rectory,  
Derby

Mr. Ernest Morris, 24 Coventry Street,  
Leicester

Thirteen members resigned in the course of the year, and we have to regret the loss by death of Mrs. F. W. Bennett, Dr. T. Villiers Crosby, Mr. John Hassall, Mr. R. B. Hall, Mr. George Crawford Johnson, Mr. W. H. Jones, Mr. W. G. Spencer, Mr. G. H. Statham, Mr. L. T. Topham and Mr. Archibald Turner. At the end of December there were three hundred and twenty-two members on the roll.

### Transactions

The first part of volume XV of the Society's *Transactions* was issued to members towards the end of the year. In addition to the Committee's report and the audited statement of accounts, this contains the following papers:—

- i. *Charnwood Forest and its Historians*, by George F. Farnham, F.S.A.
- ii. *The Cemeteries of Roman Leicester*, by M. Paul Dare
- iii. *Ashby de la Zouch* (The Manor and Church), by A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A., Henry Hartopp, S. H. Skillington and George F. Farnham, M.A., F.S.A.
- iv. *Market Bosworth* (i. The Church, ii. The Harcourt Family), by A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A., and George F. Farnham, M.A., F.S.A.
- v. *The Leicester Guild of Tallow Chandlers*, by S. H. Skillington

Mr. Dare's paper is illustrated photographically, and with plans and drawings by the author; the Ashby and Bosworth papers with photographs and excellent plans of the two churches by Mr. Albert Herbert, F.R.I.B.A. A map that is being prepared to illustrate the Charnwood paper will be issued with the next part, in which Mr. Farnham intends to publish a considerable

body of documentary material relating to the adjacent manors. The Society is much indebted to the writers of these papers and to Mr. Herbert, whose continuous and skilful work on its behalf cannot be too gratefully acknowledged.

### Reports and Papers

Part i of volume xxxvii of the *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers* was issued during the year. Subscriptions, at the rate of seven shillings per annum, should be sent to Major Freer, The Stony Gate, Leicester, who informs us that the number of subscribers to this publication has increased from sixty-nine to seventy-four.

### Lectures

The following Lectures were delivered in the course of the year :—

- 30 January :— Lecture on Mediterranean Culture in Britain, by Dr. R. F. Rattray, M. A.
- 26 March :— Lecture on How to Write the Medieval History of an English Village, by Mr. George F. Farnham, M.A., F.S.A.
- 21 May :— Lecture on Charnwood Forest and its Historians, by Mr. George F. Farnham, M.A., F.S.A.
- 24 September :— Lecture, illustrated by many new lantern slides, on Old Houses at Stamford, by Mr. Henry F. Traylen, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A.
- 26 November :— Lecture on the English Manor, by Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A.

Mr. Farnham's Charnwood lecture has already been published in *Transactions*, as noted above, and it is hoped that a report of Mr. Hamilton Thompson's November address will be printed in the next part. Dr. Rattray has very kindly supplied the following synopsis of the interesting paper he read in January, to which he

has added a short note upon the St. John's Stone and other local monuments of remote antiquity, which he rightly thinks should receive more attention than has hitherto been accorded to them :—

### MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE IN BRITAIN

In the modern study of history there have been three periods :—(1) that in which traditions were accepted uncritically (2) a period of reaction against this and rigid adherence to documentary evidence (3) the period which is now emerging. This third period is characterised by the establishment of the importance of history other than that based on written documents, namely, that based on the study of artifacts, myths, language, customs. Old as some artifacts are, Sir James Frazer pointed out that the most ancient records of man are to be found in practices still carried on by peasants in Europe.

Race appears to be due to the habits ingrained, physical and mental, among people who have been segregated (as against intermarriage) for a long period. Such habits, once ingrained, are, by the same token, very persistent. For our present purpose we are concerned with two races, the Mediterranean and the Nordic. Both are longheaded, but (1) the Mediterranean is dark, has dark hair, dark eyes, is of medium height, is very sensitive, imaginative, artistic, feels deeply, (2) the Nordic is tall, fair, has blue eyes, is melancholy and practical. When intermarriage takes place, all kinds of combinations of groups of characters can occur : e.g., a child may be physically Nordic but psychologically Mediterranean.

In history there is one main culture, sprung from the cultus of life. Man's main quest has been to have life and to have it more abundantly. At an early time and in a given centre he deduced the idea of getting life by magic, making use of symbols of life. As the object of life was to produce life, the mother, who knew how to produce life, knew everything worth knowing. The symbol of the mother was therefore a talisman. But there developed also phallic symbols, symbols of fertility, such as the fig.

Another stratum of thought emerged from early man's natural fear of darkness, and it is a law of the mind of primitive man that worship, in the form of awe and deprecation, is paid to what he fears. Hence we find a darkness cult, superseded in succession by cults of the stars, of the moon, and of the sun.

A definite mass of symbols, springing from these sources, is what is called the Mediterranean culture—so called because it was distributed from the Mediterranean.

Mr. Allcroft<sup>1</sup> argues that at an early stage the home was circular : then the distinguished dead was provided with the same sort of home, which home thus became sacrosanct. The pillar of undressed stone was evidently a preserver of life, having a phallic reference. In the Full Neolithic period there are upright pillars of undressed stone, either simply as "menhirs",<sup>2</sup> or in alignments.

This culture came to Britain certainly before 4000 B.C. The most colossal and probably the most ancient shrine of its kind is that which once stood at Avebury. The great circle enclosed about 29 acres. Its stones, 100 in number, were up to 21 feet in height and 62 tons in weight. Silbury Hill, adjoining, is said to be the largest artificial hill in Europe, 130 feet in height and covering 5 acres.

The so-called Celtic peoples were apparently peoples of Nordic race, who spoke Indo-European language, and acquired Mediterranean culture. In France and Spain they intermarried with Mediterraneans. The Celt is "red" or "black" according as he is more of Nordic or Mediterranean.

<sup>1</sup>The Circle.

<sup>2</sup>"menhir" = long stone.

The spread of Mediterranean race and culture in this country was wide and persistent. One disadvantage that this history labours under is that this culture did not record itself in material form that survived. In the parallel case of Ireland, however, we know that, at least as early as what is called the La Tène II period, we may "picture in our imagination timber houses of no little elaboration, their woodwork carved inside and out..... men and women walking in garments embroidered with similar patterns; wooden household utensils decorated in like wise; leather work, gold, bronze all contributing to the beauty of the picture". So writes Dr. R. A. S. Macalister in *The Archæology of Ireland*. Christianity brought about a revolution by causing the current language of the people to find literary expression. A new literature arose, in which heroic traditions were recorded. "Nowhere else but in Ireland", says Dr. Macalister, "do we find a literature that comes down to us out of the heart of the La Tène period. But for Ireland, the works of art which that period has bequeathed to us would be lifeless and soulless. Ireland shows us the living makers, and tells us something of what they did and how they thought". (*op. cit.*)

Legal practices from the Mediterranean culture persisted in this country, some of them to the present day.

From Sir James Frazer's survey in the *Golden Bough* it becomes clear that the Celts observed two principal festivals, one on May Day or the evening before it, called Beltane, and another on 1st November or the evening before (the modern Hallowe'en). Of course, side by side with these we find that there was a festival of midsummer. In the eyes of the ancient Celt the land was peopled with spirits.

From 200 B.C. onwards we have documentary evidence that Druidism was a high form of religion. From the same time we have gold coins minted in this country. Julius Cæsar testifies, "The population is immense; homesteads, closely resembling those of the Gauls, are met at every turn; and cattle are very numerous". On his first invasion, his army, numbering from ten to twelve thousand men, was fed for a fortnight or longer on corn which he caused to be cut in the fields round about the landing place. In the following year he demanded and quickly obtained from the people of Essex sufficient grain to provision an army of three or four times the size of his previous one.

Surviving from this time are metal keys or latch lifters, anchors, firedogs, tub or barrel hoops, chains, money, wheel tyres, bolts and nails, mirrors, brooches, helmets, horse-trappings, pottery plates and dishes, and a wooden ladder. At Glastonbury have been found together, belonging to this time, rouge, an iron-banded bronze mirror, a pair of bronze tweezers, and a black substance evidently used for darkening the eyebrows and eyelids. Numerous bronze razors have been found. The artistic work in metal and enamel is well known.

About 300 A.D. the better villas of the Romanized Britons were far in advance of anything that the Middle Ages could show, and equal to the finest Elizabethan and Jacobean mansions. Their baths immeasurably outstripped not only the Tudor ones but all their successors down to the present day.

In connexion with the British pantheon some names and figures are to be noted. One of these is Finn mac Conl (in Gælic, Fionn mac Cumhail). "Finn" = fair. "Coul" = Camulus, the sky god. Finn had two sons, Fergus and Oisín (pronounced "Usheen" or "Isheen": it became in English "Ossian"). According to the earlier English mythology, however, "Ossian" was not the bard, but Fergus. Another figure of importance is that of Medb, queen of the Sidhe (pronounced "Shee"), fairies. She afterwards became Queen Mab. Lud was god of the shining sky. Llyr was god of the sea: he had a daughter, Creudylad (the British Persephone), which word became eventually in English "Cordelia".

The whole development of the civilization of the Teutons was most strongly influenced by the Celts. In the centuries next before the

Christian era the whole Teutonic peoples shared a common civilization with the Celts, to whom they stood in relation of intellectual dependence; in every aspect of public and private life Celtic influence was reflected.

British kingdoms existed till the 7th century A.D. It is very remarkable how, when in subsequent history a notable movement in art appears, a British element can be shown to have been present.

In the Middle Ages Mediterranean influence from the south of France came to be of first importance. Indigenously British influence and sentiment came into literature prominently.

Charles J. Elton in his *Origins of English History* wrote: "The religion of the British tribes has exercised an important influence upon literature. The medieval romances and the legends which stood for history are full of the 'fair humanities' and figures of its bright mythology. The elemental powers of earth and fire, and the spirits which haunted waves and streams appear again as kings in the Irish annals or as saints and hermits in Wales. The knights of the Round Table, Sir Kay and Tristram and the bold Sir Bedivere, betray their mighty origin by the attributes which they retained as heroes of romance. It was a goddess, 'Dea quaedam phantastica', who bore the wounded Arthur to the peaceful valley. 'There was little sunlight on its woods and streams, and the nights were dark and gloomy for want of moon and stars'. This is the country of Oberon and of Sir Huon of Bordeaux. It is a dreamy forest of Arden. In an older mythology it was the realm of the King of Shadows, the country of 'Gwyn ab Nudd', who rode at Sir Guyon in the *Fairie Queene*

And knighthood took of good Sir Huon's hand  
When with King Oberon he came to Fairyland."

NOTE.—Survivals in Leicester. The "Dane" hills and the cave of Black Anna are connected with other evidence in both Great Britain and Ireland as derived from the Great Mother named with the syllable "An". The St. John's Stone and many others were originally phallic symbols of life. The tradition that Lear was buried under the Soar doubtless reveals his connexion with water.

It is not very creditable that monuments of antiquity, such as the St. John's Stone, should remain as they are, unprotected. Comparative archæology shows unmistakably the antiquity of the idea embodied in the St. John's Stone. The renaming with a Christian name is of course commonplace. (Only the other day one read in the "Times" that the Church in Italy, disapproving of the use by peasants of amulets, has instructed them that they must substitute a Christian symbol.) Phallicism was connected with warmth, with fire, with the sun, and St. John was the saint substituted in this complex of ideas. For the ancient British traditions of Leicester reference may be made to the article by Mr. C. J. Billson in *Memorials of Old Leicestershire* and to the first chapter in Mr. S. H. Skillington's *Leicester*. I should like to be allowed to pay a tribute to the historians of Leicester.

### Exhibition

On the 31st of July, a very successful exhibition of Leicestershire paintings and drawings by local artists was held at the Church House, the artists represented being John Flower, Harry Ward, John Fulleylove and Mr. Walter Brand. The examples shown were kindly lent by Mrs. Billings, Mr. Brand, Mr. J. Stockdale Harrison, Mr. Charles Kempson, and Mr. William

Skillington, to whom thanks are due for a most enjoyable and instructive afternoon. The various works, especially those by Fulleylove, were not only valuable as topographical records, in some cases of buildings that have undergone change or demolition, but possessed high artistic merit.

The subjects of Fulleylove's water colours lent by Mr. Skillington were:—St. Margaret's church, Leicester, from Sanvey Gate, showing one of the earliest horse trams coming round the corner from Church gate; the West Bridge and St. Mary's church, Leicester; Leicester castle and the tower of St. Mary's, from just within the medieval gateway leading into the Newarke; the interior of the old News Rooms at the corner of Granby street and Belvoir street, Leicester; Leicester Market Place, with stalls, from Cheapside corner; the Mayor's Parlour and the library, Old Town Hall, Leicester; the principal street of Ashby de la Zouch; two views of Ragdale; the north side of the Victoria Park, Leicester, looking towards London road and showing the pavilion; two views of the old Midland Station, Leicester, while it was being demolished; Welford Place, Leicester, showing Stone's office, the statue of John Biggs and the old house that used to stand at the corner of Pocklington's Walk; the Clock Tower and East Gates, Leicester, showing the buildings as they were before the alterations incidental to the widening of High street. Mr. Skillington also exhibited a water colour (landscape near Bradgate) by Harry Ward and the following pencil sketches (done about 1870) by Fulleylove:—All Saints' church, the old public house near it, the entrance to Goodwin's brewery and the house at the north end of Highcross street; St. Nicholas' church and Sycamore lane, before the church tower was restored and the homely character of the district was destroyed; the south side of Hungarton church, with porch, from the street, with the old village stocks in the foreground. Mrs. Billings sent two water colours by Fulleylove:—Leicester Market Place on a wool fair day, most interesting both as a picture and as a record, and a cottage and garden at Newtown Linford. Mr. Harrison provided four exceptionally good pencil sketches by Fulleylove:—Southgate street, showing the Newarke; old Highcross street; and two views of the Old Town Hall. The water colours by Fulleylove were exhibited at Spencers' rooms in the Market Place, Leicester,

about thirty years ago, with several others, soon after they were executed, Fulleylove's intention being to have a selection from them reproduced in colour and published in a book on Leicestershire, which never appeared, however, because no suitable writer could be found to supply the text.

The examples of John Flower's work contributed by Mr. Kempson included paintings of the old Blue Boar inn, Leicester; Yeomau's house, Belgrave; some old houses against St. Mary's church, Leicester; the ruins at Bradgate; and the Groby road, with Leicester in the distance. There were besides three water colours of Ayleston, one of the village, one of the medieval pack-horse bridge, and one of the fields thereabouts, and a water colour of the Westcotes district, as well as a lithograph of Leicester Abbey and another of the Grammar School at Market Bosworth. These works, which were varied in character, excited much interest; for very few, if any, of those present had seen them before, though most would be familiar with Flower's charming published drawings of the Leicester of his time.

The following is a list of the drawings exhibited by Mr. Walter Brand:—Gaddesby church, west end of south aisle; Rearsby church, priest's door and chancel window; entrance doorway of St. Mary's Home (Dr. Barclay's house), the Newarke, Leicester; entrance doorway of the Guest House, No. 7 the Newarke, Leicester; south entrance doorway, St. Margaret's church, Leicester; west entrance doorway, Melton Mowbray church; window head, Little Stretton church; the old manor house, Wigston Parva; the spire of St. Martin's, Leicester, from the courtyard of the Old Town Hall; doorhead, the Cookery School, St. Martin's, Leicester; old house at the corner of Red-cross street and Highcross street, Leicester; the churchyard cross, Stoughton; the Mountsorrel cross, now in Swithland park; gables and chimneys of old houses at Desford; house at Newbold Verdon; and a geometrical sketch of a slate tomb at Sapcote. Each of these drawings exemplified the skill, refinement and thoughtfulness that always characterise Mr. Brand's work.

Before the exhibits were inspected, Mr. Farnham made a short introductory speech, in which he thanked the members who had lent pictures, and then called upon Mr. S. H. Skillington to

improvise a few remarks upon the artists represented. Mr. Skillington does not remember exactly what he said; but he recalls the substance of it, which he has set down, with certain additions, in the following note :—

In 1915, at the request of the late Mr. Perkins Pick, I wrote an introduction to the catalogue of an exhibition of water colour drawings and pencil sketches by Harry Ward that was held in the summer of that year at the Leicester Art Gallery. On referring to this catalogue, I find that I began my little essay by saying that it was "a notable fact that, towards the middle of the last century, Leicestershire within fifteen months gave birth to two men of remarkable artistic endowment. Both were painters. John Fulleylove, who was born at Leicester in August, 1845, became a member of the Royal Institute [of Painters in Water Colours] when he was thirty-four, and before his death in 1908 had achieved the highest reputation as a painter of architectural subjects. Harry Ward, who was born at Kibworth on June 4th, 1844, the eldest son of a hosiery manufacturer of that place, did not live long enough to reach his full artistic stature; but he left behind him a body of work that amply proves him to have possessed imaginative gifts of no mean order and a power of depicting with fidelity and insight the scenes and characters of wayside country life".

I started by thus associating Ward with Fulleylove because I knew from my father, who was intimate with both of them, that for some years after they left school the two were close friends, and that, as was natural, each influenced the art of the other. In those early days, Ward's was undoubtedly the leading mind, and there seems to be no reason to suppose that his ultimate achievement would have been less considerable than Fulleylove's had he been granted the time to mature the powers that were in him.

Fulleylove, after leaving Highton's school about 1862, went as a pupil to Messrs. Shenton and Baker, architects, Friar Lane, Leicester, with whom he remained for a time, as an assistant, after completing his articles. While at this office, which is now occupied by Mr. Albert Herbert,\* he acquired the definite knowledge of structural principles that is so strikingly evident in his architectural pictures, and industriously occupied his leisure in sketching and painting, to such good account that he was soon able to abandon the pursuit of architecture and set up as an artist in Leicester. At this stage he married a sister of Mr. George Elgood, R.I., and went to live in the gabled house opposite the Trinity Hospital in the Newarke. A few years later he migrated to London, where he shared a studio with Sir James Linton, P.R.I., and eventually settled in Church Row, Hampstead. Instead of attempting to trace his career from this date, I will quote a retrospective note upon it, published in 1912, by an eminent critic who admired both the man and his work.

In the chapter of his *Memories* entitled "Artists at Hampstead", the late Sir Frederick Wedmore wrote: "A residence at Hampstead, in that day [about 1880], brought me into familiar contact, into sincere friendship, with leading members of a group of men who by production, as well as by organization, were doing a great deal for English Water-Colour.....The fidelity of Fulleylove's friendship,

\*The practice now carried on by Mr. Herbert was started about 1820 by William Flint, who was born at Castle View, Leicester, in 1798 and died in 1861. Mr. Shenton was taken into partnership by Mr. Flint, after whose death he was joined by the late Mr. Charles Baker, from whom the business was acquired by Mr. Herbert.

his great sagacity, his manly humour, are among the possessions of my mind—lost only in a measure to my present days. Not lost at all is my deep sense, my knowledge, of the worth of his Art—of its immense, unflinching dignity. Our School of Water-Colour has had no such draughtsman of architecture, since the earlier days of Turner and the noble youth of Girtin. The masculine handling of his best period—the late 'Seventies, the earlier 'Eighties—places him above the reach of any comparison with Prout—save in the pencil-drawings in which both were so excellent. I remember something he did—a morning vision of the Medici Gardens—was declared by F. G. Stephens to be worthy of Poussin. With that eulogium I will leave Fulleylove”.

Harry Ward's talent for drawing first attracted notice when he was at a private school kept by a Mr. Buzzard at Smeeton Westerby. Upon leaving that modest academy at the age of fifteen, he was apprenticed to Messrs. R. and J. Kemp, a firm of Leicester drapers, whose shop was near the White Swan hotel in the Market Place. He proved, however, to be quite unfitted for business, and in 1865 he took up his abode with his parents, who had come into Leicester, and thenceforth devoted himself with the utmost enthusiasm to the cultivation of his genius. When his pictures began to sell, and he had obtained a few pupils, he left home and went into rooms, first in Pocklington's Walk, and then in one of the Stepped Houses on the London Road, just below Campbell Street. In 1871 he moved to London, whence he proceeded to Windsor, in order to be near his friend Mr. A. Y. Nutt, Surveyor of the castle, through whose influence he received commissions from several members of the royal family. About this time his health became seriously impaired by some form of lung trouble, of which, after a prolonged stay in Switzerland, he died at Leicester on the 2nd of October, 1873.

Ward's drawings and sketch books show that he had travelled in Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales, and that the villages and fields of Leicestershire and the adjoining counties were his old familiar haunts. Much of his earlier work was done in the country around Bradgate, which he visited for the last time on the day before his death. He was extremely clever with his pencil, and his sketches are always distinguished by the accurate rendering of significant detail. The best of them are mystically touched with the light that never was, on sea or land.

John Flower, known to his contemporaries as “ John Flower the limner ”, was born in 1795 and died in 1861. He married a lady named Frances Clarke, and by her had three children, two of whom died when they were quite young. The third, Elizabeth, was married twice, first to William Bayes Marshall, a clerk in Paget's Bank, and secondly to the late Mr. William Kempson, to whose son, Mr. Charles Kempson, I am indebted for these particulars.

As a young man, with the assistance of friends drawn to him by his talent and his engaging disposition, John Flower went to study in London under De Wint, whose influence is apparent in Flower's water colours. After his return to Leicester, he taught drawing at his house on the New Walk, and also at the Ratcliffe College and a school at Ullesthorpe. In 1851, in conjunction with Henry Goddard, he designed an excellent house on Regent Road, which he occupied until his death. He was very fond of sketching in North Wales, whither, in the earlier years of their life together, he and Mrs. Flower used to travel in a cab chartered at Leicester. These pleasant excursions generally lasted about six weeks, and it was noted that the horse was always in much better fettle at the end of them than at the start.

Flower's well known Leicestershire views, especially those of the streets and buildings of old Leicester, in addition to their value

as topographical records, have a quiet charm that makes them a fitting memorial of a kindly and accomplished man.

### Excursions

Two very pleasant excursions, the first to Mr. Arthur Wakerley's house at Crown Hill, Leicester, and the second to Stratford on Avon, were arranged during the summer by Messrs. Brand and Bedingfield.

On the 28th of June, shortly before 3 o'clock, about fifty members and friends made their way to Crown Hill, where they were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Wakerley. The afternoon was spent in examining the rare books, pictures, manuscripts and articles of furniture to be seen in the various rooms. Tea was then served under cover on the lawn. When the refreshments had been duly enjoyed, Mr. Farnham proposed, and Mr. Vice seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess, to which Mr. Wakerley replied in a speech that bubbled with wit and good humour. Before leaving, the party were conducted over the house, largely constructed with materials from a medieval house in Highcross Street, Leicester, which was built a few years ago in the grounds of Crown Hill. This very agreeable dwelling is occupied by Mr. Wakerley's daughter and her husband, who were both very kind to the visitors.

On the 27th of September, a similar number of members and friends motored to Stratford on Avon. It was rather cold and misty when they started from Leicester; but the sun broke through by the time they reached Narborough, and the rest of the day was warm and brilliant, so that everybody felt cheerful and the town of Stratford looked its best. Before lunch, which was taken at the Shakespeare hotel, the company visited New Place and the Gild Hall, Almshouses and Grammar School under the expert guidance of Mr. H. E. Forrest, of Shrewsbury, who in the afternoon conducted them to Shakespeare's birthplace, Harvard House and other notable buildings, including Hall's Croft, which Mrs. Leggett kindly permitted them to explore at their leisure. The party next visited the parish church, which was described to them by Canon Melville, whose lively interest in all its features made him a capital guide. After tea at the Shakespeare hotel,

Mr. Hugh Goodacre very happily expressed the general thanks to Canon Melville, Mr. Forrest and the excursion secretaries. When Mr. Forrest had spoken in reply, he led the way to the first floor of the hotel, and discoursed upon the carpenters' marks and the structural details to be found in this old portion of the house. Mr. Forrest also pointed out certain striking features of several old houses that were passed on the way to Shottery; for many of the party, before returning to Leicester, drove to this village, to see the Hathaway house, over which they were shown by Mr. Bennett, the curator, whose knowledge of the place, and of much else that pertains to old Stratford, is intimate and peculiar. Stratford could not have been visited under more favourable conditions, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part in it. There was a general feeling that the excursion secretaries and their colleagues had surpassed themselves. Canon James, who was staying in the neighbourhood, motored over in the afternoon. As he had for some time been unable to attend the Society's meetings, his friends were specially glad to greet him on this occasion.

#### **Mr. Samuel Russell's Gift**

At the Committee meeting held on the 27th of February, Mr. Samuel Russell presented a handsome oak table for the Society's room, as an expression of gratitude for the happiness his long connection with the Society had afforded him, and in token of his hope that the important work of recording the history and preserving the antiquities of Leicester and Leicestershire would long be continued. Mr. Farnham, in acknowledging the gift, said he trusted that Mr. Russell would sit at the table for many years to come, helping to promote the very worthy aims he had at heart. The table was designed by Mr. Ralph Bedingfield and made by Mr. W. Stanger. At the next meeting, a leather writing mat, to be placed on the part of the table used by the chairman, was presented by the excursion secretaries, who were suitably thanked by Mr. Farnham for so thoughtfully providing for his comfort.

#### **The Newarke Houses, Leicester**

Many members will be interested to know that Tudor House (in the Newarke) has been let to the Leicester Corporation on a

repairing lease for eight years, from the 29th of September, 1928, at a rent of £60, the previous rent having been £40, per annum. Since the 22nd of February, 1922, £800 has been paid out of rents off the mortgage upon these houses, leaving £4,700 at 3½ per cent. interest.

### The Library

In the course of the year, the following additions were presented to the Library:—*Three Leicester Gilds*, by the author (Mr. S. H. Skillington); a rubbing of the Rosetta Stone preserved in the Egyptian Gallery of the British Museum, together with a copy of the published account of the stone, by Mr. E. A. Roberts, two volumes of MS. notes concerning the parish of Leire, by the Rev. A. Mainwaring, of St. Leonard's on Sea; a *History of Loughborough*, by the author (Mr. J. Deakin); and *The Coinage of the Byzantine Empire*, pt. i, by Mr. Hugh Goodacre.

### Presentation to Mr. Farnham

The most gratifying event of the year was the presentation to Mr. George Francis Farnham, which took place on the 29th of October in the Mayor's Rooms, Hastings Street, Leicester, by kind permission of Alderman Thomas, who was then Lord Mayor. We will begin our account of the movement that culminated on that memorable occasion by quoting in full the well worded letter sent out to all the members of the Society by Mr. Hugh Goodacre, chairman of the special committee, towards the end of May:—

For some time past a feeling has been growing amongst those most closely associated with Mr. Farnham in his work for the Society that the time has come when that work, not merely deserves, but demands, some public recognition. As Chairman of the Committee of the Society his hereditary standing in the county, his scholarship and unflinching courtesy have lent dignity to its proceedings; while to him, as chairman of the Publications sub-committee, is almost entirely due the standard of excellence attained by the Society's *Transactions*.

At a specially convened meeting of the Publications sub-committee held in the Society's room in the Guildhall, Leicester, on the 30th April last, it was unanimously resolved that a fund be inaugurated in order to

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- (a) Obtain a portrait in oils of Mr. Farnham to be hung in the Society's room :
- (b) Present an illuminated address to Mr. Farnham containing the names of subscribers :
- (c) Present a second portrait to Mr. Farnham.

At this meeting the following gentlemen were appointed a special committee to carry out the above resolution, *viz.* : Messrs. Ralph W. Bedingfield, A. W. Death, Junr., H. J. Francis, Major W. J. Freer, Messrs. Sydney A. Gimson, Hugh Goodacre, H. Hartopp, Albert Herbert, A. H. Leavesley, A. B. McDonald, Lt. Col. R. E. Martin, Messrs. S. Russell, S. H. Skillington, Charles Squire and G. Keith Thomson.

At a meeting of the special committee held on the 10th instant (by kind invitation of Lt. Col. R. E. Martin, C.M.G.) at The Brand, the offer of Mr. F. J. Pettinger, A.R.C.A., one of the most successful of Leicestershire portrait painters, to paint the two portraits was tentatively accepted, and, as chairman of the special committee, I now venture to appeal to you, as a member of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society, for a subscription in order that the committee may proceed with the commission entrusted to it as speedily as possible.

To ensure that the presentation shall be representative of the whole Society, the committee has fixed a maximum subscription of two guineas, and any contribution up to this sum should be sent to either of the Hon. Treasurers, Mr. A. W. Death, Junr., 14 Millstone Lane, Leicester, and Mr. S. H. Skillington, 60 Granby Street, Leicester, on or before the 16th June next.

To avoid any undue lengthening of this appeal, and for the information of members who are less familiar with the work Mr. Farnham has done for the Society in the past, and is still doing for it to-day, I enclose on a separate leaflet an appreciation by a member of the Publications sub-committee, which incidentally reveals the cordial—I think I may even say *affectionate*—relations which exist between the members of that sub-committee and their chairman.

The leaflet referred to by Mr. Goodacre was entitled *George Farnham, Historian of Leicestershire*, and read as follows :—

Mr. George Francis Farnham joined the Leicestershire Archaeological Society on the 25th of November, 1907. For some years circumstances prevented him from being a regular attendant at its meetings; but at the end of 1916 he was elected to the General Committee, and in June, 1921, when Mr. Hamilton Thompson resigned the editorial secretaryship, he was persuaded to take over that gentleman's duties, as chairman and convener of the sub-committee now called the Library, Lectures and Publications Committee. In April, 1923, he became chairman of the General Committee, to which office he has been annually elected ever since. Under his wise and attentive direction, the society has prospered exceedingly; and the members have complete confidence in their leader, whose genial urbanity gives a peculiarly happy character to all their gatherings.

Though the fact may not be generally realised, Mr. Farnham is without doubt the most learned and comprehensive historian of medieval Leicestershire that has yet arisen, and it is most improbable that anyone will ever possess the intimate knowledge of the genealogical and manorial history of the county that he has gradually acquired in the course of many years' patient, accurate and

original research. Proof that this is no exaggeration may be found in his *Quorndon Records* and *Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees*, and in the manorial papers contributed by him, generally in association with Mr. Hamilton Thompson, to our society's *Transactions*. He has always been most generous in giving help to other workers, and we understand that he is now preparing for publication a large amount of Leicestershire material that will be of the utmost service to future students and writers of village histories.

All who attend the society's meetings and take part in the summer excursions like and respect Mr. Farnham. Those who have been closely associated with him, and have been privileged to see into his mind, feel for him an affection that is too firmly established ever to suffer abatement.

The response to Mr. Goodacre's appeal was so generous that the committee were able to provide, in addition to the two portraits and the illuminated address, a handsome and chastely designed silver-gilt casket, with the Farnham arms in choice enamel on the lid, to contain the address, and a finely made dark blue morocco case for the protection of the casket. In the preparation of these interesting accessories, the committee were greatly helped by Mr. McDonald, whose knowledge and experience enabled him to see that the money at their disposal was laid out to the best advantage. The results were eminently satisfactory, and the subscribers will be glad to know that, with the exception of the heraldic ornament on the lid of the casket, which was done by a noted artist in enamel at Birmingham, the whole of the work was executed in Leicester. The portraits were painted on summer afternoons in the studio at the top of Mr. Pettinger's house in Westcotes Drive, the sittings being thoroughly enjoyed by both the subject and the artist, as was evident to the friends who were present at some of them. One portrait is now at Quorn House; the other hangs over the fireplace in the Society's room at the Old Town Hall.

About a hundred subscribers and friends, many of them ladies, assembled at the Mayor's Rooms on the afternoon of the presentation, when the chair was taken by Mr. Goodacre, who was supported by Col. Martin and Major Freer. Each of these respected leaders was very cordially received, and frequently applauded in the course of his speech. In opening the proceedings, Mr. Goodacre said he thought the fact that the duty of making a public presentation to the chief antiquary and historian of Leicestershire had devolved upon him needed some explanation. According to the popular fancy, the antiquary was a

being who inhabited the border land between the grotesque and the august—one who spent his time in burrowing, and, because he was modest, escaped general recognition. The secret of his (Mr. Goodacre's) being in the chair on that happy occasion was that he was *not* an antiquary. He possessed none of that veneration for exactitude which was the hall mark of the true antiquary, and which the man they had met together to honour possessed in such a very high degree. Turning to Mr. Farnham, he remarked that it was comparatively easy to tell a man with whom you were at loggerheads exactly what you thought of him; but it was not so easy to do this to a friend. His task, however, was greatly simplified by the felicity of the terms in which the address he was about to have the honour of presenting was couched. This address was the product of one of the wisest heads in the Society—not his; he had had no part in it. All he need do, therefore, was to say how strongly he felt that our Society was not the sole beneficiary of Mr. Farnham's work. That work extended over a far wider field; for the man who, by delving into the past, recovered and made accessible to his fellows the history and traditions of his neighbourhood, his country or his race, was, to his way of thinking, no less a patriot than the man who waved a flag or stood at street corners and shouted. In conclusion, he congratulated the Society upon having such a man as Mr. Farnham for their teacher and guide in matters pertaining to the past, and declared that the executive Committee were especially fortunate to have as their chairman one who by his scholarship, his modesty, his unflinching courtesy and strict impartiality, ever showed himself to be a fine example of the English gentleman at his best.

Mr. Goodacre then read the address, which had been composed by Col. Martin and decoratively written, with the names of the hundred and eighteen subscribers, by Mr. McDonald on a long roll of parchment:—

GEORGE FRANCIS FARNHAM

ESQUIRE, M.A., F.S.A.

We, the Members of the Leicestershire Archæological Society whose names are written below, beg that you will accept a portrait of yourself together with this Address in a casket, and that you will allow a second portrait by the same painter to be hung in the Society's room, in token of our appreciation of the services which you have rendered to the cause of historical research in the County

of Leicester. Twenty-one years ago you became a member of the Society: since then, as a Member and Chairman of the Committee and as Chairman of the Library, Lectures and Publications Sub-Committee, you have consistently given the Society of your best. In you we have learnt to find accuracy without pedantry and helpfulness without condescension. You have at all times been ready to place your rich stores of learning fully and freely at the disposal of your fellow members. The Society is indeed happy in having as its leader one whose pre-eminence as a Leicestershire historian is so widely recognised, whose family has been intimately associated with the County for so many centuries, and whose qualities of mind and heart have won for him the warm personal regard of all who have the good fortune to know him.  
July, 1928.

Col. Martin then rose to speak. He said:—

Mr. Goodacre, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have had the honour of being entrusted by the Committee with the task of adding a few words to what has been said by our Chairman this afternoon, in presenting to Mr. Farnham his portrait, and the address in the singularly beautiful casket now on the table before us. I am not even now quite clear why I should have been honoured with this commission, unless it was because I am among the nearest of Mr. Farnham's neighbours here present and have probably known him as long as most of my audience. However that may be, the task, though responsible and in some respects difficult, must necessarily be very agreeable to anyone who knows enough of Mr. Farnham's work to be able to realize how great a debt of gratitude is owed to him by the members of the Society, and indeed by all who are interested in the history of the county.

I conceive that my duty this afternoon is to try to convey to the general body of persons here present, who though members of the Society and interested in its printed proceedings and accustomed to share in its excursions, may not have had actual experience of the work of writing history, to convey to them some impression of how valuable Mr. Farnham's work has been and how fortunate the Society must count itself to be in having him to lead and inspire it.

Let us consider for a moment what, if we had the choice, we should include in a specification for the ideal county historian. Well, I think in the first place we should like him to be a native of the county, interested in its past not merely as a piece of research in his particular "subject", but because he is dealing with the part of the world to which above all others his heart-strings are tied. To such a person the topographical framework of his history will be a matter largely of instinct, rather than of deliberately acquired knowledge, and hence the more clear and vivid.

That he should have a mind and disposition informed by that just and balanced mixture of imagination and scepticism which, while retaining always a freshness of outlook and a spirit of adventurous research, is yet careful to state as fact only such things as are definitely recorded in the documents or may be proved by certain warrant thereof.

The third characteristic for which we should hope would be a large-minded and generous willingness to help others, whose interests run in the same direction as his own, and to place the result of his researches into the common stock, for the advancement of the common fund of knowledge.

If with these three personal attributes, he should also be found to possess a natural aptitude for acquiring historical information, a complete technical knowledge of medieval Latin whether written

or abbreviated and the power of reading it off like plain print, and a memory like an automatic recording machine, richly stored with facts and equipped with an unfailing mechanism of cross-references—why then I think we should say that the county which possessed such an historian need not trouble itself to look farther afield.

I seem to myself, and I dare say shall seem to you as well, to have been for the last few minutes putting up an elaborate bluff. Those who have had the good fortune to be closely associated with Mr. Farnham in his work for the Society, during the last twelve years especially, while he has taken an active part in its proceedings, will I think unite in saying that my *draft specification* for the ideal county historian is in fact a sort of pale reflection of the qualities which they have increasingly found in him as time has gone by.

May we consider for a moment whether their view is well founded and their spectacles not tinted unduly with rose.

So far as concerns the historian's origins, we are, I think on safe ground. Though probably deriving their name in the first instance from *Farnham* in Essex or *Fornham* in Suffolk, the family have been in Quorn for the best part of 700 years for certain.

In 1259 in any case, Robert de Farnham of Quorn was sent by the Lord of the Manor at Barrow to find one of his villeins who had been abducted. It is not likely that he would have been sent upon such a commission as this, unless the family had been for some considerable time in Quorn before this date. The property then held by the family, on a part of which stands Quorn House, the residence of our Guest this afternoon, was acquired by the gift of the "Heirs of Arundel" who in 1243 succeeded the earls of Chester, as Lords of the Manor. It is interesting to us to know that this property was described as having been reclaimed by the earls of Chester from the waste of Charnwood.

From this time forward the references to the Farnhams in the papers at the Record Office occur at frequent intervals down the centuries. For example an entry in the *Coram Rege Roll* in the year 1345 relates a somewhat picturesque scene which took place on Barrow Bridge on "Monday next before the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra", (which was a long winded way of saying February 22nd) 1344, at the third hour of the day. It appears that at that stated time and place the Lady Elena le Rous, daughter of the High Sheriff of the county, attired in a high head dress and long-toed shoes and mounted on an ambling palfrey, found herself in the middle of the bridge. At the same moment there entered from the other end of the bridge one Robert de Farnham, who must have been what Rob Roy would have described as a pretty man with his hands. About the events of the next few moments there is a certain divergence of view. The Lady Elena said that she left the bridge 20/3d. poorer than she entered it and that Robert de Farnham immediately disappeared. Robert de Farnham entirely denied that any such event took place. In due course, however, an action was brought by the Lady Elena, and Robert de Farnham having been arrested was interned in the Marshalsea prison, there to await his trial. When the case was brought forward, however, the Lady Elena did not appear; possibly she was afraid of the consequences of the proceeding against so enterprising a person; so Robert was re-committed to the Marshalsea.\*

Now however, matters take a fresh turn and in the succeeding entry in the *Coram Rege Roll* we find that Robert had either escaped from the Marshalsea, or else was released to accompany the King

\*It is, of course, possible that the lady was not telling the truth, or that she exaggerated whatever happened. As Mr. Spectator remarked to Sir Roger, "much might be said on both sides", and in this case Robert should be given the benefit of the doubt.

to the French Wars. There he acquitted himself with such effect at the Battle of Crecy and at the Siege of Calais, that the King at the special petition of Edward the Black Prince gave him letters of pardon for all "Homicides, Felonies, Robberies and Trespasses, whatsoever by him perpetrated in his realm of England". With this very satisfactory document Robert appeared at Westminster and claimed release from any further action by the Lady Elena de Rous. The court was not however wholly convinced that it was wise to lose connection with such an adventurous personage as Robert, and they therefore took security from Simon de Kegworth and others that they would be responsible for his good behaviour towards the King's people.

It is unfortunate that his subsequent life was rather brief or he might have provided material for more than one romantic novel.

So we go on down the centuries to Thomas Farnham, M.P. for Leicester in 1559 and for East Greenwich in 1557. He held the comfortable position of Teller of the Exchequer and became the owner of a considerable amount of property in various parts of the country. In 1563 John Farnham was appointed as Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth. In the following century, when war broke out between the King and Parliament, Edward Farnham the then owner of Quorn spent 2½ years at Ashby Castle with his friend Colonel Hastings. He rather suggested later on that he had gone there for change of air, but inasmuch as Colonel Hastings was throughout that period an active supporter of the King, the Parliamentary Commissioners were not prepared entirely to accept this explanation of his action. In 1645 a troop of horse appeared at Quorn from Leicester and carried Edward off to the County town, and at the same time ransacked his house, the "Over Hall", for any papers which they could find—a very regrettable action from the point of view of subsequent historians.

After spending six months in prison Edward was released upon paying a fine of £480 and taking the oath to "Refrain from further action against the Parliament".

So we come down to Edward Basil Farnham—born 1799 died 1879, M.P. for North Leicestershire from 1837 to 1859 and father of Mr. George Farnham himself.

It will I think be agreed that so far as ancestral connection with the county is concerned our Society is very fortunate in its leader.

Let us now consider in a little more detail the nature and extent of the work which Mr. Farnham has actually done in his course of historical research. It was in about the year 1904 that he first actively concerned himself with this subject, having been led to do so by his desire to inform himself accurately about the nature and duration of his family's connection with Quorn.

Comparatively early in this course of research he found that the documents in which he was working contained constant references to persons and places in Leicestershire and he proceeded to make notes of such references as he came across them.

The particular documents in the Record Office with which he was dealing with the Plea Rolls, which had not at the time been indexed. These documents are the records of Lawsuits which have taken place at Westminster and elsewhere in the country, depending upon where the King and his court happened to be at the time: they are concerned mostly with disputes about land which was almost the only form of property known in the Middle Ages. They are almost the only documents which have survived from those days in anything like a complete form, and date from a period when very few people were able to write at all. The work of reading them is

extremely laborious: they are written in "Script Writing" and the language used is medieval Latin and abbreviated Latin at that: they are written on parchment sheets on both sides often in faded ink, and the strain on the eyesight produced by the reading of them is very great.

For about 20 years up to the year 1924 Mr. Farnham carried on pretty constantly his work of research, the result of which has been the accumulation of an immense mass of accurate detail about affairs in the county, from the 13th century onwards. He has thus provided the absolutely indispensable framework for that complete history of the county, which has still to be written. In saying this, I must not be understood as throwing cold water upon Nichols's *History of Leicestershire*, our justly valued county history. "That massive achievement"—"That work of immense industry", as Mr. Hamilton Thompson has described it, was compiled at a time when the public papers were not accessible as they are now. The Record Office had not been brought into existence. The papers were scattered about London, some of them in the Chapter House at Westminster, some at Doctor's Commons, and some in the Tower of London. They had not been arranged and indexed even to the extent of to-day. John Nichols was not a trained historical investigator; he was just a publisher who had many irons in the fire; his work is a compilation and includes material of varying degrees of merit and value. In honouring Mr. Farnham and bearing testimony to his work, we are not relegating Nichols to the limbo of the discarded, but are carrying on the tradition of which he so far as Leicestershire is concerned may not unjustly be said to be the founder.

Let us glance for a moment at the concrete results of these 20 years of research work on Mr. Farnham's part. They are contained in a number of books, some of them printed and published, others still in their original form.

1. *Quorndon Records*, published in 1912, a work of some 500 pages, gives a comprehensive history of the FARNHAM family and of references in the public records to matters connected with the village of Quorn from the beginning of the 13th century. The most casual perusal of this volume cannot fail to impress the reader with the scope and thoroughness of Mr. Farnham's work.
2. For nearly 100 other villages in the county, he has printed "Notes" of references in the *Plea Rolls*, together with the topographical matter and other information; these notes are an invaluable source of material for all future historians. It may here be mentioned that after Mr. Fletcher ceased his connection with the Archæological Society on leaving the county in 1899, the Society had done no further work of the kind which he had in his time begun. He had abstracted and printed half the Fines of the time of King John and these had appeared in the Reports and Papers which were published jointly by the Leicestershire and other Archæological Societies in 1916, when Mr. Farnham joined the Committee of the Archæological Society. He gave to the Society the remainder of the Fines of King John as far as Mr. Fletcher had not printed them, and also the extracts referring to matters in Leicestershire from the *Curia Regis Rolls* of Henry 3rd, both of which he had himself abstracted and transcribed. These are all printed in Reports and Papers.
3. *The Medieval Manorial Descents* of about 20 other places in the county have been printed in the Society's Transactions.

These descents have either been written by Mr. Farnham himself or prepared from his notes.

4. *Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees.* This work contains the pedigrees of 67 families connected with the county, which do not occur in any peerage or baronetage. They have been constructed by Mr. Farnham from the references which he has found in the Plea Rolls, and has put together so as to form complete pedigrees.
5. *Manuscript Volumes.* These 16 volumes of manuscript material have been taken from the notebooks mentioned below. References will be found in them to all villages in the county and it is from these 16 volumes that the "Notes" above referred to, have been taken.

*Note-Books.* Of these there are a very large number, some of which Mr. Farnham has presented to the library of the Rawlins School of Quorn, and the remainder are at Quorn House. They are the original extracts from the documents in the Record Office made by Mr. Farnham during his 20 years of research.

We shall all I think agree that Mr. Farnham has by this astonishing mass of work placed future historians under a deep debt of obligation for having provided them with so rich a store of valuable material.

With regard to his other work for the Archaeological Society it is interesting to us to-day to remember that he joined it in 1907 but he was at first prevented by various circumstances from regular attendance at its meetings. In 1916 he was elected to the General Committee and in June 1921, when Mr. Hamilton Thompson relinquished the Editorial Secretaryship, he became chairman and convener of the Sub-Committee of the Society. In April 1923 he was elected chairman of the General Committee, and has been re-elected each year since then.

The main feature perhaps of Mr. Farnham's work as leader of the Society has been this, that, at first alone, and afterwards with the constant help and co-operation of Mr. Skillington and others, he has persuaded it to embark on the publication of its own transactions rather than to take part in any joint publication with other Societies: he has constantly kept to the front the principle that the real function of such a Society is to encourage and carry on research and he has consistently stimulated the work by his own example and practice. The course which Mr. Farnham advocated did not by any means receive general acceptance during the earlier days, but there is I think universal agreement now that the transactions of the Society are well qualified on their own merits to take their place among publications of the kind in other counties. The first piece of work of this sort produced by the Society was the Manorial History of Rothley. The late Mr. Fosbrooke to whom the Society owes so much had a great share in the production of this number. Most people here present will agree in regarding this as a really fine piece of work.

During the years which have elapsed since then the Manorial Articles of Mr. Farnham and Mr. Hamilton Thompson have been the most important part of the published transactions. They have been based on Mr. Farnham's own "Notes" taken, as I have already described, from the original documents. Mr. Farnham has throughout spared neither time, trouble nor expense in making these printed records really accurate and reliable, and has made not a few special journeys to London in order to verify references on particular points.

The high standard of the Society's Lectures has been due in no small degree to the trouble which Mr. Farnham has taken in inducing competent people to speak to the Society upon their own subjects. Those who have taken part in the Society's Excursions will not need to be reminded of how much they have owed to him as guide and leader, and no one can have failed to be struck by the amazing store of complete and detailed knowledge which he apparently possesses about any and every place which the Society has visited, and by his marked faculty for imparting it in the most pleasing and instructive fashion.

Of his personal characteristics I hesitate in his presence to say very much. The Society is fortunate indeed in having as its leader one whose kind friendliness puts the most uninstructed inquirer immediately at his ease, and whose modest deprecation of any suggestion that his own work possesses any particular merit is no less marked than is his willingness to put his outstanding knowledge at the disposal of all who approach him.

Speaking as one who has had the good fortune to be his near neighbour, I would say in conclusion what pleasure it gives me this afternoon to be here to pay him this tribute on behalf of the Society, pleasure which is very greatly increased by my knowledge of what he has done for those among whom he lives, and of his constant desire to forward in any way that lies within his power the real interests and well-being of the people of Quorn.

The next speaker was Major Freer, who said that, in the whole of the fifty years he had been an honorary secretary of the Society, nothing had given him greater pleasure than taking his part in this tribute to Mr. Farnham. There was no necessity for him to expatiate upon the learning and fine personal qualities of Mr. Farnham, which had been so ably laid before them in the lively and eloquent speeches they had just listened to. He would therefore content himself with saying that he was in hearty agreement with every word that Mr. Goodacre and Col. Martin had said.

When Mr. Farnham stood up to reply, he was greeted with an ovation that seemed to last for several minutes. As soon as he could make himself heard, he said:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is certainly a red letter day in my life, and I believe it is without an exact parallel in the life of the Leicestershire Archæological Society; for never to my knowledge, in the seventy-three years of the Society's existence, have the members conferred on any one of my predecessors such an honour as you are conferring on me to-day. The nearest approach to it would be the illuminated address which the Society presented to the late Colonel Bellairs at the Jubilee meeting of the Society in 1905, in appreciation of his long and useful service. It is true that on several occasions posthumous honours have been paid to various members who have done good work for the Society in their lifetime, but this is the first time that such an address and such handsome gifts have been bestowed on a living

member. From the recipient's point of view, and I hope from that of the donors too, honours rendered to a person in his lifetime must be more agreeable than any memorial can be.

I will now pass on to your delightfully worded address. You start by asking me to accept a portrait of myself, together with your address in a casket. In accepting these very acceptable gifts I wish to express to all the kind donors my grateful thanks for the gifts and for the extremely friendly expressions with which they have been presented. It is difficult for me to realise that my services to the Society, which have been a pleasure, deserve such a splendid recognition. But to stress my own unworthiness strikes me as rather a futile proceeding in face of such tangible proofs that, whatever I may think, you have your own ideas on the subject. I little thought when I joined your committee twelve years ago that I should ever merit so much appreciation. In thanking you all I should like especially to thank the members of the Testimonial Committee for the time and trouble they have taken in bringing the Testimonial to so satisfactory a conclusion. I am deeply sensible of the friendly feelings that prompted them, and I should wish to assure them that in their choice of an artist to paint the portrait, they could not have selected one who was more anxious than Mr. Pettinger to make the ordeal of sittings as pleasant as possible to his sitter; in fact the soothing atmosphere of Mr. Pettinger's studio gave me the greatest difficulty in keeping awake on many occasions until tea arrived or some kind friend dropped in to rescue me. I am sure, that, if you, the donors, are satisfied with the result, nothing could be more gratifying to Mr. Pettinger and me. The beautiful casket speaks for itself; but I should like to express to Mr. McDonald my appreciation of the engrossment of the Address, which he did with his own hands in the same self-sacrificing spirit which I had already experienced from him on a former occasion. I can assure you that all these gifts will be my most treasured possessions.

Next you ask me to allow a second portrait of myself to be hung in the Society's room. Of course I shall be greatly honoured in being the first member or chairman to see his portrait hung on the wall of that historic building. I trust it may serve as an inspiration to future chairmen to serve the Committee as successfully over a period of years, as you are good enough to declare that I have done. Much of this credit belongs in reality to others, without whose constant help I could have accomplished nothing.

Now I come to what you are pleased to call the services which I have rendered to the cause of historical research in the county of Leicester. When I first took up research work at the Public Record Office in or about 1904, I had no intention whatever of doing more than getting all the information I could from the documents stored there concerning Quorndon and my family; but when I began a search through the huge series known as "the Plea Rolls", i.e., the records of the law-suits at Westminster, I naturally found that in searching for Quorndon I was passing over countless suits relating to other villages and families in Leicestershire; and, as a similar search had never been attempted for this county before, I thought it would be a great boon to village historians and help to lay the foundations of village history if I made extracts of some of the most important references. The Plea Rolls, and more especially the series known as "the De Banco Rolls", that is the rolls of the Court of Common Pleas, contain a large amount of genealogical and manorial history, because the bulk of the suits recorded on them concern disputes on land, on advowsons, petty debts, and such like. The pleadings often gave descents of several generations and are most useful in making pedigrees. Our ancestors were amazingly

litigious. Many of the suits, it is true, were collusive. A man wanted proof of his title to land settled in a Court of Record; hence he got a friend to commence an action against him, and thus obtained a verdict in his own favour. At the same time, there were a large number of suits which were not collusive, and the pieces of land in dispute were often ridiculously small; the same thing happened in the recovery of petty debts. It is surprising that a plaintiff could have thought it worth while to take them to London at all in days when travelling was so risky and difficult.

Of course I did not confine my search to Plea Rolls only, though I waded through most of the 900 odd rolls from 1273 to 1509, and about 103 of the rolls for the reign of Henry VIII, besides those for Edward VI, Mary and Elisabeth.

I took notes of the whole of the Feet of Fines for Leicestershire from 1210 to 1553, considerably over 1000, adding later several hundred, mostly relating to manors, on to 1666. None of this work had ever been done by Nichols, and the most useful part of my work to the Society and to village historians in the county is that I have added to what they can find in Nichols' History very much knowledge of the medieval period, which is the weakest part of that great work. In Nichols' day there was no Record Office, and the immense collection of documents now housed there was distributed in various places, such as the Tower of London, the Chapter House at Westminster and other depositories, and I have no doubt that research work at these places had to be done under uncomfortable conditions. Therefore Nichols never attempted to do it, and his history suffers much in consequence.

The only Editorial Secretary of the Leicestershire Archæological Society who realised the immense importance of research work at the Record Office before I became a member of the Committee on its reorganisation in 1916 was Mr. Dimock Fletcher, who resigned the secretaryship in 1900. He had made a beginning by employing a Record Agent, one of the many who work daily for pay at the Record Office, to extract a few of the documents there relating to the county of Leicester. This work was stopped on his resignation. There was not the smallest reason for this. It is true that the Society had no Latin research worker of their own, (the dearth of research workers is the weakness of most Archæological Societies); but the Committee could have continued Mr. Fletcher's work through the same Record Agent that he had employed.

The two primary duties of a County Archæological Society are:

1. To keep an eye on all objects of archæological interest in the county.
2. Research Work.

Both are important; but whereas the first is more or less passive, it is by its Research work that an archæological society lives.

When this Society celebrated its Jubilee, Mr. Dimock Fletcher, the editorial Secretary, who resigned in 1900, was asked to write a paper on the Work which the Society had done during the fifty years of its life.

Mr. Fletcher, after some complimentary remarks, said: "We have begun to print some of the vast stores of unpublished documents which are preserved at the Public Record Office, British Museum, and at Lincoln. But very much more remains to be done in this direction. The Society would do well to follow the example of Staffordshire, Lancashire, and other counties, and print in the Transactions more record matter. We are too apt to think that Nichols' bulky eight volumes contain all that is necessary for the

topographical writer; but this is not so. Vast stores of documents have come to light since Nichols' day. His work is wonderful for the time in which he lived; but it is after all only a collection of materials. And no place-history could be written to-day, with Nichols only to fall back upon. This Society has a great future before it, and a great work still remains for it to do."

This last sentence is as true to-day as it was when Mr. Fletcher wrote it.

The vigorous and sustained applause that followed this capital speech formed an excellent and spontaneous grand finale to the main part of the afternoon's programme. When this had subsided, the company adjourned to the room upstairs for tea. Before going their several ways, having duly refreshed themselves, the majority took the opportunity of examining the casket and the inscribed roll at close quarters. In many cases, this had not been possible in the lower room, where the portraits had been so displayed that they could be seen by all. The general feeling was that the Presentation Committee had been most happily inspired, and that they were to be congratulated upon the complete success of their efforts.

The arrangements at the Mayor's Rooms were in the hands of Messrs. Brand and Bedingfield, which is another way of saying that everything was done as well as it could be done.

**THE LEICESTERSHIRE**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for**  
**GENERAL**

		RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.
1927.					
Dec. 31.	To Balance	... ..	83	2	5
1928					
Dec. 31.	„ Subscriptions and Donations	... ..	330	3	0
	„ Sales of <i>Transactions</i> , &c., of L.A.S.	... ..	16	14	0
	„ Interest on £101 5s. 4d. Leicester 3 per cent. Stock less Tax	... ..	2	8	6
	„ Interest on £250 0s. 0d. Leicester 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent Stock less Tax	... ..	9	10	0
	„ Bank Interest	... ..	4	12	5
	„ Special Contribution from Excursion Secretaries' Account for Repairs to All Saints' Church, Loughborough —(vide opposite)	... ..	5	0	0

ARTHUR W. DEATH, JR., A.C.A.  
*Honorary Treasurer*

£451 10 4

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

the Year ending 31st December, 1928.

## ACCOUNT

		PAYMENTS			
1928.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Dec. 31.	By SUBSCRIPTIONS :				
	Archæological Congress ...	1	0 0		
	British Numismatic Society	1	1 0		
	Canterbury and York Society	1	1 0		
	Lincoln Record Society ...	1	1 0		
	English Place Name Society	0	15 0		
	British Record Society ...	1	11 6		
				6	9 6
	„ Printing <i>Transactions</i> ...	188	5 0		
	„ Printing and Stationery ...	16	11 6		
	„ Honorarium to Assistant Secretary	25	0 0		
	„ Rent ... ..	12	5 0		
	„ Postages and Sundry Expenses	12	19 2		
	„ Lecturers' Expenses and Lantern	2	17 6		
	„ Fire Insurance ... ..	1	10 0		
	„ Income Tax—Schedule D 1927/28	2	16 0		
	„ Canon Briggs—Restoration of All Saints' Church, Lough- borough, per Excursion Secretaries' Account ...			5	0 0
	„ Trustees of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Grammar School—Restoration of Old Houses, Market Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch ...			10	0 0
	„ Stoke Golding Church Restoration Fund ...			5	0 0
	„ Balance at Bank ... ..	162	16 8		

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£451 10 4

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THE LEICESTERSHIRE

FUNDS

December

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	£	s.	d.
General Reserve Fund	347	8	1
Leicestershire Archæological Research Fund	678	14	11
Hon. Treasurer's Account	162	16	8
Excursion Secretaries' Account	21	3	1
	<u>£1210</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>

ARTHUR W. DEATH, JR., A.C.A.  
*Honorary Treasurer*

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## ACCOUNT

31st, 1928.

	£	s.	d.
£101 5s. 4d. Leicester Corporation 3 per cent. Stock (value £77 10s.)	101	5	4
£250 0s. 0d. Leicester Corporation 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock, 1945/55 (value £248 15s.)	246	2	9
£205 0s. 0d. 5 per cent. War Loan 1929/47 (value £210 12s. 6d.)	210	18	11
£400 0s. 0d. Leicester Corporation 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock 1945/55 (value £398)	395	1	0
		£	s. d.
Cash at Bank December 31, 1927	47	6	0
Interest on Investments—			
£205 5 per cent. War Loan 1929/47	10	5	0
£400 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Leicester Corporation 1945/55 less Tax	15	4	0
		72	15 0
Cash at Bank—			
Current and Deposit Accounts	162	16	8
Excursion Secretaries' Account	21	3	1
		£1210	2 9

I have compared the Funds Account dated December 31, 1928, and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending December 31, 1928, with the Books and Vouchers of the Society and find them to be in accordance. I have also had submitted to me the Script of the Society's Investments.

H. J. FRANCIS, A.C.A.,  
*Honorary Auditor.*

February 25th, 1929



THE  
LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

---

1928-29

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- Parsons, John, Esq., Friar Lane, Leicester
- Partington, Miss A. C., Syston, Leicester
- Patey, Mrs. E. E., Stoneycroft Hotel, Elmfield Avenue, Leicester
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- Peach H. H., Esq., Crowbank, Old Knighton, Leicester
- Pearson, Miss M. J., Mason Croft, London Road, Leicester
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- Pick, W. H., Esq., Glebe House, Hoby, Leicester
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34 Nelson Street, Leicester
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Laughton, Rugby
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Rugby
- Templeman, Mrs., 318 Victoria Park  
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- Young, Mrs. W. G. R., Kimcote  
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Members are requested to notify any change of residence, or error of description to the Assistant Secretary.

The Society's Library at the Guildhall, Leicester, will always be open for members to consult or borrow books at 2 p.m. on each Monday when Committee or Bi-Monthly Meetings are held, and at other times by appointment with the Assistant Secretary and Librarian, Mr. H. HARTOPP, 81 Barclay Street, Leicester. A new Catalogue of the books, etc., has recently been prepared. Typescript copies are on sale at One Shilling each. Postage 8d. extra.

**ix. LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Societies in Union  
for the Interchange of Publications.**

Birmingham Archæological Society  
Cambridge Antiquarian Society  
Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society  
East Herts. Archæological Society  
Kent Archæological Society  
Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society  
Shropshire Archæological Society  
Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History  
Surrey Archæological Society  
The Society of Antiquaries  
The North Staffordshire Field Club  
The Thoresby Society  
The Thoroton Society (Notts.)  
Yorkshire Archæological Society

## RULES

1.—The Society shall be called "THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY."

2.—The objects of the Society shall be, to promote the study of Ecclesiastical Architecture, General Antiquities, and the Restoration of Mutilated Architectural Remains within the County; and to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of Ecclesiastical Edifices, and for preserving all ancient remains which the Committee may consider of value and importance.

3.—The Society shall be composed of a Patron, a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Auditor, and Honorary and Ordinary Members.

4.—The Patron, President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society, and their election shall be subject to their payment of the Annual Subscription.

5.—The Members of the Society shall be entitled to propose new Members, either by letter or personally, to be elected at the Committee Meetings; and Honorary Members shall be ladies or gentlemen who have either rendered signal service to the Society, or are specially learned in the subjects the study of which it is formed to encourage, and shall be nominated by the Committee at one of their Meetings, and proposed for election only at the General Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in March of each year.

6.—Each Member shall pay an annual subscription of One Pound, to be due in advance on the 1st of January every year. No Member whose subscription is more than two months overdue shall be entitled to vote until such subscription has been paid. Any Member wishing to resign must give one month's notice of his intention, and this notice should be sent to one of the Society's Secretaries before the end of November. If any subscribing Member is found to be more than two years in arrear, his or her name shall, after due warning, be removed from the list of Members of the Society.

7.—The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee composed of the Secretaries, Local Secretaries, Treasurer, and twenty Members, all of whom shall be elected annually; five Members of the Committee to form a quorum.

8.—The Meetings of the Members shall be held on the last Monday of every alternate month; one of such Meetings to be held in the month of March to be considered the Annual General Meeting, at which the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts be presented and the Officers and Committee for the year be elected, and such new Rules or alterations in the Rules proposed and made as may be thought necessary: provided always that due notice of such new Rules or alteration in Rules be given by circular to each Member of the Society at least seven days before the Annual Meeting. In addition to the Bi-Monthly Meetings—so including the Annual Meeting—Public Meetings for the reading of Papers, &c., may be held as provided for under Rule 12.

9.—The Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies in their number, and also in the vacancies of officers of the Society.

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10.—The Committee shall elect each year a Chairman, at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting, and shall have power to appoint from year to year such Sub-Committees as appear to be advisable.

11.—The Members of the Committee in any neighbourhood may associate other Members of the Society with themselves, and form Committees for Local Purposes in communication with the Central Committee.

12.—The Public Meetings of the Society shall be holden at such times and places as shall be appointed by the Committee.

13.—The Committee meet at the times and places which they may themselves appoint.

14.—The Secretaries shall be required, on the requisition of five Members of the Committee, to call a Special Meeting of the Society.

15.—Donations of Architectural and Antiquarian Books, Plans, &c., may be received. The Committee shall be empowered to make purchases and procure casts and drawings, which shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

16.—When the Committee shall consider any Paper, not including accounts of Excursions, which may have been read before the Society, worthy of its being printed at its expense, they shall request the author to furnish a copy, and shall decide upon the number of copies to be printed, provided always that the number be sufficient to supply each Member with one copy, and the author with twenty-five copies. All other questions relating to the publishing Plans and Papers and illustrating them with engravings, shall be decided by the Editorial Secretary, subject to the approval of the Committee.

17.—The Committee may every year publish, or join with other Architectural and Archaeological Societies in publishing, for circulation among the Members, Transactions to contain descriptions and Papers connected with the objects of the Society.

18.—On application being made to any Member of the Committee, or to the Committee collectively, for the advice of the Society in the restoration of any Church, a Sub-Committee shall be appointed (of which the Incumbent or Resident Minister shall be one) to visit the Church, and submit a report in writing to the General Committee.

19.—All Plans for the building, enlargement, or restoration of churches, schools, or ancient buildings, &c., sent for inspection of the Committee, be placed in the hands of one of the Secretaries of the Society, at least fourteen days before the Committee Meeting, for the Secretary to prepare a special report thereon.

20.—The Committee shall have power at any Meeting to make grants towards the objects of the Society, provided that if such grant—other than that for carrying out the objects contemplated in Rules 16 and 17—exceed £5, notice to be given in the circular or advertisement calling the Meeting.