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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Professor G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., C.B.E.

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lecture delivered by Miss A. Tynan, M.A.
on Friday, November 5th, 1954

"SUSSEX IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY— SOCIETY FROM DIARIES AND LETTERS"

The lecturer dealt with the picture of life at that time, as recorded in the diaries and letters of people of various occupations. Timothy Burrell, a barrister, possessed a house, four fields, a beanfield, a coppice, horses, and servants. His income was £356 a year exclusive of his barrister's fees. His taxes amounted to the large sum of £70—14—0. He was a generous man and gave Christmas parties to poor people. His recreations included hunting and shooting. Entries of quarrels and other unpleasant matters in his diary were made in Latin.

Thomas Marchant, a farmer, of Little Park, Pierrepoint in 1714, kept large numbers of fish in ponds. He recorded a purchase of 344 carp all over a foot in length. Transport of live fish must have been difficult in those days.

Giles Moore, Vicar of Horsted Keynes between 1666 and 1674 was a genial and kind prelate. He provided pigs for the marriage feasts of poor people, and accepted certain services in lieu of tithes. One such arrangement was a chicken dinner once a year for himself and his son-in-law. He records the sale of five cocks for cockfighting, for which he received 4/6.

John Burgess, who kept a diary from 1785 to 1790, discloses that he made gloves and leather breeches, dug graves, tanned skins, and was also a Baptist lay preacher, going as far afield to preach as Tunbridge Wells. His amusements were cricket, and somewhat surprisingly racing and bull-baiting, for which he used to lend his own dogs. Runs at cricket were called "notches" in those days, and were recorded by notching a stick.

Thomas Turner was first a schoolmaster and then a shopkeeper selling groceries and hardware: he was also an undertaker. He records that his sister was a "vagrant". He also confesses his failings, which were over-eating, drinking, and gambling. He made good resolutions only to break them, and seems to have returned drunk from nearly every party he went to. He read the *Spectator* and *Tatler*.

News in the eighteenth century seems to have taken two days to come from London, and rumour was rife. Thus there was the French scare of 1745; when the cottagers of Chichester ran out in their night clothes to settle their business and bury their money. Infant mortality was shocking: the Colliers of Old Hastings House had 18 children of whom 13

died. Innoculation for smallpox, the forerunner of vaccination, appears to have been highly dangerous, for several cases of death after treatment are recorded. Men and women, we learn, used to sit at opposite ends of the room after supper, the men with their pipes and drinks, and the women spinning. The fees of a boarding school to which a merchant sent his daughter were £17 a year. Giles Moore calculated what his daughter had cost him and arrived at the total of £163—12—6. He gave her a dowry of £150, and she had already been left a legacy of £10 a year. In general, children seem to have arranged their own marriages without compulsion. Groceries in those days were bought in huge quantities: half a hundredweight of raisins, or eight stone of hard soap at a time. Buying from pedlars was normal, and one diarist expended £6, a large sum in those days, on a single purchase of linen and household goods. Giles Moore bought some scarlet cloth, and had part of it made into a waistcoat and the remainder into a carpet for his study. People grew their own hemp, spun it, and sent it away to be woven: it was then made up in the home. It is almost impossible to equate prices with those of today; but breeches cost 25/-, lard 8d. a lb., apples 2d. a bushel, tweed 6/- a yard. Tea was very dear at 25/- a lb., and wigs cost a lot of money to maintain: bleeding, however, was comparatively cheap at 1/- a time. Some 18th century wages recorded were: footmen 30/- a year, dairymaids 45/-, cooks 60/-, coachmen £6, nursemaid or nursery governess £10. All had clothes in kind, or allowances for them.

In general, it could be said that the diaries shewed a distinct improvement in morality, and a diminution of cruel sports towards the end of the century, when bullbaiting and cockfighting became rare.

NOTE: At the end of the 18th century, rates in Battle were often levied six times a year, and amounted to 25/- or 30/- in the pound per annum.—ED.

Second Lecture delivered by Miss A. Tynan, M.A. on Friday, November 19th, 1954

SUSSEX IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY— AGRICULTURE AND FARMING

In the eighteenth century agriculture was the main occupation of the people, and as late as 1750 there were no big towns. Even in 1800 Brighton was the only large town, and other seaside towns had hardly begun. There are several surveys of agriculture during the period such as those made

by the two Arthur Youngs, father and son, and Marshall's "Rural Economy in the Southern Counties". John Ellman Junior's article on agriculture in Horsefield's History of Sussex is also specially valuable. The Ellman family were famous in Sussex farming, especially the elder John Ellman (1753—1832) who spent 50 years in active farming at Glynde. He improved the Southdown breed of sheep, and was one of the founders of the Smithfield Show and Sussex Agricultural Association. He was also a pioneer in draining the Ouse Levels. Two articles in the S.A.C., Vols. 89 and 90, describe the census of 1801 of crops, livestock, and farm property in the county, taken as a preparation for a "scorched earth" policy if the French should land. This is a valuable record. Vol 90 of S.A.C. also contains an article which covers the farming systems of the 18th century.

Farming practices of the times varied with the various types of soil: there were small inland farms; but the more prosperous cultivation was near the coast. On the marshes there was valuable grazing, and on the higher ground the great downland farms. In 1801 there were four times as many sheep in Sussex as now; but only one-third the number of cattle. Horses, as one might expect, were three times as numerous as now. The 18th century saw many improvements, especially in stock-breeding, and the average weight of cattle doubled.

Potatoes were still the food of paupers and animals rather than of ordinary folk.

Though the Sussex labourers were said to be better off than elsewhere; and were certainly treated well by such enlightened farmers as John Ellman, there was much unemployment. Unemployment was then called over-population. Many labourers were without work for four months in the year; the workhouses were full, and much money was paid in outdoor relief to supplement wages, which necessitated increase in the poor rate. In Battle, the poor rate, already high in the latter days of the eighteenth century, was doubled within a few years in the early part of the 19th century.

Lecture delivered by Captain Oswald Frewen, R.N. on November 26th, 1954

HISTORY AND BREDE PLACE

The lecturer began by discussing the theme "What is history?" and giving instances from his own experience during the two world wars in which errors had found their way into the official history. Most errors were bona-fide mistakes or

omissions, and he himself, as a diarist, had once discovered that he had made an error in a date of historical importance. There were also cases throughout history of deliberate falsification for political or private ends. Even accounts of historical events with which people had been made familiar for generations may be suspect: for instance, there was now considered to be quite a possibility that Henry VII and not Richard III might have been responsible for the murder of the princes in the Tower. Discrepancies in the story of Queen Philippa and the burgesses of Calais also suggested that it might be nothing but romance after all. Bearing these things in mind, the writing of history must of necessity be largely guesswork.

Turning to Brede Place, the lecturer said he believed it was built by Sir Thomas Atteford, of whom no record can be found and whose coat of arms is also unknown. The oak moulding of the great hall was 14th century and a plaster wall had been built 18 inches in front of it. When this was removed, six playing cards of date 1570 were found. The Oxenbridge family were the next owners, of whom one, Andrew, probably carried out extensive alterations in 1570, including a reduction by one-third in the size of the chapel in order to make a grand staircase. The property came into the Frewen family in 1676 and, with the exception of a short interlude, had remained in it ever since.

Questioned about the ghosts at Brede Place, the lecturer said he attributed many of the tales to smuggling days of the 18th century. Cargoes could be landed quite close to the house, and the smugglers staged ghostly phenomena as a protection. There was however one well attested and very punctual ghost who began to function at 10 p.m. Greenwich mean time, would not observe Summer Time, and had sometimes proved clocks to be wrong. He was thought to be the priest in charge of the chapel at the time when Andrew Oxenbridge desecrated the sanctuary; so understandably his principal haunt was the staircase.

Lecture delivered by Miss A. Tynan, M.A.
on December 3rd, 1954

SUSSEX IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY— THE BEGINNINGS OF SEASIDE RESORTS

Brighton is the only seaside resort in Sussex which started in the eighteenth century; and it was founded on the pattern of the early 17th century spa at Tunbridge Wells which provided facilities for taking the waters, bathing,

recreation and amusement, a promenade (The Pantiles—prototype of sea-fronts), smoking and gaming haunts, library, church, and assembly rooms complete with a master of ceremonies, with the education of the poor as a popular charity. Brighton began as a Spa thanks to the famous Dr. Russel a physician of Lewes who was trained at Leyden. He wrote a book on diseases of the glands for which he prescribed the drinking of seawater. This became so popular that in a few years bottles of Brighton seawater were sold in London at six shillings a dozen. Russel encouraged sea bathing for medical reasons; but it soon became fashionable for pleasure also, George III having set the example at Weymouth. In 1786 an Indian, Sheikh Din Muhammad, set up an establishment for vapour baths and massage (which was called shampooing) which was patronized by the Prince Regent. Brighthelmstone, mentioned in Domesday, was a poor fishing village when Russel came to its rescue. Between 1700 and 1740 the population dwindled, as it suffered from erosion and the passing out of use of small shipping. Even in 1775 there were no paved streets or stone houses and the open fields behind the houses were cultivated in strips, to which pattern the building development conformed when houses began to be build inland. The natural advantage of Brighton as a resort are the chalky soil, shelter from the north and east, proximity to London, and Dr. Russel considered also the absence of a river was an advantage.

Royal partonage was extended to Brighton as early as 1765 by the Duke of Gloucester, and by the Prince Regent in 1783. There was a Master of Ceremonies called Wade, a library, a piazza with a band, horse racing, cricket, and cock-fighting. There was also the Steyne promenade, which, like the new residences, avoided the sea view because sea views were then considered rather unattractive. It was not till the early 19th century that the promenade and then the pier were constructed. Brighton developed more rapidly than the contemporary industrial areas: in 1760 the population was 2,000, in 1783 3,500, in 1801 7,000, in 1811 12,000, and it had reached more than 24,000 by 1821.

Fourth lecture delivered by Miss A. Tynan, M.A.
on Friday, December 17th, 1954
SUSSEX IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY—ELECTIONS

In the eighteenth century there were two parties, Whigs and Tories. The Whigs had been in power since 1714, and by 1750 there was really no difference between the policies of the

two parties. The Tories were popularly supposed to be pro-Jacobite, but undue party line was condemned, and members were supposed to represent all parties.

Votes were regarded as private property—something that could be bought and sold: and something tangible was required in exchange for them either in the shape of administrative jobs, local amenities, or just plain cash. Thus in 1800 Hastings Town Hall was built by the Borough Member, and in 1742 Rye Town Hall was built with money lent by the M.P., and the debt paid off later by a subsequent M.P. At East Grinstead almshouses were built, but only those who voted the right way could hope to get into them. At Shoreham there was a society of voters called the Shoreham Christian Society, which used to charge the candidate £3,000, or £35 each for their votes. Under these conditions, contests were most expensive and avoided if possible. In Yorkshire there was one election which cost half a million of money.

Candidates had to be backed by influential people, otherwise they stood little chance of election. Parliament undoubtedly represented property and defended it. The slogan "No taxation without representation" also meant the converse: "No representation unless you are taxed". Sussex had 28 members in the eighteenth century; and it is interesting to note that at that time Manchester had none at all. There were two county members, one for East Sussex and one for West Sussex, and these seats were always held by members of the very highest families. The Ashburnhams and Pelhams held the East Sussex seat for most of the 18th century. When it was proposed that the representation should be made more proportional, the basis suggested was taxable value and not population. The election of county members took place either at Lewes or Chichester, according to where the County Court had been last held; and as this alternated, East Sussex electors might have to go to Chichester to vote, and so East Sussex might be disfranchised for want of electors.

The franchise was restricted and irregular: in some places only taxpayers could vote. In Lewes all householders could vote: in Rye voting was restricted to Freemen and Jurats, and to those who paid Scot and Lot. In Bramber, East Grinstead, Midhurst, and Horsham, voting was by house, and in boroughs generally by what was known as forty shilling freeholders. This led to buying up of houses, which were afterwards let for 10,000 years at a peppercorn rent. In other cases houses were divided to produce more votes. As a matter of local interest, Sedlescombe in the 18th century had only 4 voters and Battle 16. In some places very few people could vote; while in others

some individuals had several votes by virtue of various qualifications. The elder and younger Pitt did not mind sitting for rotten boroughs, and one, in fact, was the member for Old Sarum which had only two houses.

Voting was entirely public and elections lasted a long time, during which agents beat up support. Debtors who possessed votes might find themselves imprisoned for debt to prevent them from voting. When the candidate was elected he did not consider he was obliged to attend the House very often, and provincial members were often called in on important occasions only. Bills had about nine readings in each house, and could be stopped at any stage. Voting on a bill was accomplished by those who wished to vote against it walking out.

Only after 1800 was there a body of opinion wanting freer elections. In 1832 the Reform Bill swept away the rotten boroughs, and other boroughs lost one member. Corruption may be said to have been eliminated about 1850.

Talk given by Sir John Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.
on Friday, January 14th, 1955

SOMETHING ABOUT SEDLESCOMBE: FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO DOMESDAY

In his opening remarks the lecturer commented on the meagre accounts of Sedlescombe which appear in guides and other books written about Sussex villages. The Victorian County History and the Sussex Archaeologi cal Collections remain the chief sources of information; but an untapped source exists in the MSS bequeathed to the British Museum by the collector, Sir William Burrell who died in 1796, which awaits editing and publication.

Knowledge of the pre-history of the parish is limited to finds which have been made in a strip of country about three quarters of a mile in length and considerably less in width along the valley of the Durhamford stream, where many flint implements of the Middle Stone Age have been picked up; at Hook's Beech where others have been found; and the garden of Oak Cottage on the Roman road just inside Westfield parish where two axeheads of local ironstone were found a few years ago. In the first-mentioned area near the SSW corner of Coombe Wood have been found a ground and polished flint axehead and a hollow-based arrowhead, which with the ironstone axeheads have been assigned to the late

New Stone Age or early Bronze Age. It seems likely therefore that the earliest inhabitants of Sedlescombe were the original Mesolithic stock which had lived in this country for hundreds, perhaps even thousands of years; and that they had some hunting or trading contacts with the later people of the New Stone Age.

Ernest Straker in his book, "Wealden Iron" published in 1931, wrote: "Evidence has been fast accumulating that iron was smelted in Sussex in Neolithic times". Footlands, an ironworking site in Sedlescombe parish, though described by Straker as Roman, is undoubtedly older, having yielded among other pre-Roman pottery some of the "eyebrow" pattern associated with Brittany in the first century B.C. Taking the end of the Neolithic period as about 1800 B.C. and the closure of the Ashburnham forge about 1820 A.D., we get a period of iron smelting extending over 3,000 years with a gap from about 400 A.D. to 1500 A.D. There are more than 30 iron sites within five miles of Sedlescombe Green, some shewing smelting by the bloomery method during the earlier period and others the production by blast furance and forge during the Tudor period. At Footlands a coin of Domitian (about A.D. 80) was found as well as many pottery fragments dating from A.D. 50 to 400, while at Oaklands Park, another site just outside the parish situated on the south side of the carriage drive not far from the entrance, several coins of Hadrian (A.D. 117 to 138) were found as well as a Roman fibula (brooch) of the first century A.D. From this site thousands of tons of cinders were removed in 1838-40 by James Byner, a highway surveyor and churchwarden of Sedlescombe, to make the "New Road" from Whatlington to the Harrow.

Running like a spine through Sedlescombe from north to south is the Roman road from Rochester on the Watling Street through Maidstone and Bodiam to Ore. It crosses the prehistoric east-west ridgeway at Cripps' Corner and is represented by the modern road except at the Compasses, where a footpath marks its course, at Great Saunders (now Merrion House School) where it remains as the two carriage drives, and the "agger" in one place is clearly visible, and also near the church which probably stands to the west and not to the east of its line. In 1951 some members of this society established that a local Roman road left the main road at the Compasses, passed through the Footlands ironworking site and regained it again at Little Castlemans. (See Transactions of the B. & D. H.S. for 1950-51).

Until the 14th century or later the Brede river was navigable up to Sedlescombe which was a river port of some importance. The stream at high tide must have been some 200 yards wide at that time and too broad to be bridged. The present bridge replacing an older one was built by John Catt in 1875. Generally speaking there are indications that Sedlescombe was settled in the 1st or 2nd centuries about the higher ground and Durhamford valley, and the presence of a villa in Sedlescombe parish is suggested by finds of flue tiles, bricks, glass, and the finer Samian ware.

Of the Saxon period nothing emerges about Sedlescombe until on August 14th, 1876, a labourer digging a drain found about two feet below the surface the remains of an iron-bound box containing a leather bag in which was about a pint of silver pennies all of the reign of Edward the Confessor. Accounts of this find appear in S.A.C., Vols. 27 and 33. 1,136 coins were actually recovered which were from 44 different mints, but mostly from those at Hastings or in Sussex. Fragments of the receptacle and about a dozen of the coins can be seen at the S.A.S. museum at Lewes, and a few more in the Hastings Museum, but the remainder have vanished. The site of this find is now in the kitchen garden of the property called the Manor House and behind the village hall. That the coins were Saxon public funds seems certain, as they represent a large sum for those days. They may have been crown revenue from Hastings sent inland at the Norman invasion; or part of Harold's military chest for paying his army which was buried in panic on the defeat of the Saxon army at Senlac.

In 1086 Sedlescombe, spelt Salescome or Saelescome, very much as the name is pronounced today, was in the Rape of Hastings and Hundred of Staple, a name which survives in Staplecross. There seem to have been three estates: Salescome itself, Fodelant (Footland), and Herste (name still in use), which must have corresponded roughly with the trunk and the west and east branches of the rather odd-shaped present day parish. Salescome is mentioned four times in Domesday, of which the first entry may or may not include some or all of the remaining entries. The first entry states that Salescome is assessed for one hide (average area perhaps 100 acres), land for 4 ploughs, 7 acres of meadow, and woodland for 6 swine. Its value was 60 shillings when held of the Countess Goda by a Saxon called Lefsi before the Conquest. After the Conquest, held by a Norman, Walter Fitz Lambert, of the Count of Eu, its value sank to 20 shillings but had recovered to 40 shillings in 1086. The second entry records land for one plough, 3 acres of meadow, and wood for one pig, also held

by Walter Fitz Lambert and worth originally 10 shillings increased to 20 shillings by 1086. The third entry deals with about 50 acres and woodland for 3 swine held by Geoffry the Canon. There were two Bordars (intermediate status between Villein and Serf), with one plough. It was worth 10 shillings and was waste; evidently a fairly large area just being brought under cultivation. The fourth entry refers to the Home Farm which consisted of 10 to 12 acres worth five shillings with one Villein. Footland had been held by a Saxon freeman called Wenestan, who was displaced by a Norman called Anschitil who had one plough with one villein on arable land of about 20 to 24 acres and woodland for 4 swine. It was worth 10 shillings. At Herste there was arable land of 20 to 24 acres and one acre of meadow where Enod, one of the few Saxons holding land in the county at the time of Domesday, had one plough. It was worth 20 shillings.

Domesday does not relate whether there was a watermill on the Brede or whether ironworking was still going on in 1086; but it does mention a chapel (ecclesiola), whether Saxon or built after the Conquest. This is most likely to have stood on the site of the present church, but as no traces remain in the structure, the chapel may have been of wood. The word "manor" does not occur in the Domesday account of Sedlescombe. In our day two buildings in the parish are called "manors". Perhaps one of them, opposite Brickwall, and dated 1611, may have marked from the time of Domesday the centre of the main estate of Salescome; while the church occupies a situation which is central for all three estates.

Lecture delivered by Mr. G. W. Burstow, F.S.A. on February 11th, 1955

THE RECOGNITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The lecturer dealt mainly with the various types of sites to be found on the Sussex Downs, the normal characteristics of which are smooth curves and gentle slopes. Any disturbances of the surface such as bumps, banks and depressions are the work of man; but these are not always prehistoric. Aerial photographs shew these disturbances very clearly and often locate sites which are quite invisible from the ground. Burial mounds, or barrows, may be found all over the downs; the oldest type being the long barrow of the Stone Age, of which 12 are known in Sussex. None of these has been excavated, but from excavated specimens it is known that they consist

of a central chamber in which some chieftain was buried, a long passage leading to it, and a number of other interments suggesting that they were tribal burial grounds. Round barrows are much more numerous; over 1,000 having been located in Sussex. The larger belong to the Bronze Age, and the smaller to later ages up to Saxon times.

Lynchets, or the banks which mark the boundaries of Celtic field systems, may frequently be seen on the slopes of the downs; and are brought out even more clearly by aerial photographs. In the vicinity of these field systems traces of Celtic farms or settlements are usually to be found, the sites of their huts being marked by circular depressions. From many of such settlements ancient trackways may still be seen running to the Roman roads by which produce was taken to the towns.

Flint mines of the Stone and early Bronze Ages are very plentiful in Sussex and Norfolk. The sites consist of filled-in shafts, often 40 feet deep, from which radiating galleries follow the flint seams, in which may frequently be found the antlers and shoulder-blades of oxen which were the picks and shovels used for digging flints. In one mine, figures of animals have been scratched on the wall; but it is not certain whether these are pre-historic.

Bronze or Iron Age hill forts, of which the outer ramparts and ditches still remain, are prominent features throughout the county. In several cases aerial photography has revealed an older unsuspected Stone Age fort inside.

Numerous discoveries still remain to be made. The best time for searching is in summer evenings, when the long shadows shew up disturbances of the ground. To confirm a suspected site, pieces of pottery and coins may be looked for in soil thrown up by rabbits and moles. A stick with a lead weight on the end, called a "Bowser" gives different sounds when tapped on natural ground and soil covering hut sites, mine shafts, trenches and store pits, the presence of which can thus be detected.

Lecture delivered by Mr. G. W. Burstow, F.S.A. on February 25th, 1955

RECOGNISING ANCIENT POTTERY

The lecturer traced the development of pottery in pre-historic Sussex from its beginnings in the Neolithic Period down to Roman times. In the Neolithic period, round-

bottomed vessels, perhaps in imitation of leather prototypes, were made in the causewayed camps like Whitehawk. Some were made round basketwork, and some, known as Peterborough Ware, had a decoration known as the "Maggot pattern", consisting of small bird bones and other materials.

The early Bronze Age was the period of beaker ware; and the middle Bronze Age of collared or crowned urns. All of these were funerary urns, and not domestic pottery, as no dwelling sites of this period have been discovered. The late Bronze Age was the period of the Celtic field systems and the small farms found in association with them. Pottery infiltrated into Britain from the Continent during this period, such as the globular urns from Northern France, the barrel-shaped vessels with fingertip ornament, called Deverel-Rimbury Ware, from the Netherlands, and other decorated ware from the Western Alps.

The advent of Iron Age A (the period of Hallstatt culture) brought round and sharp-shouldered vessels, and pottery coated with Haematite which may possibly have been designed to imitate bronze vessels. The following period called Iron Age AB (the period of La Tène Culture) saw the construction of the great hill forts, and produced saucepan-shaped wares decorated with shallow tooling. Vessels with an S-shaped profile were also made, some with foot-ring bases and decorated with shallow tooling.

During the first century B.C. there was much immigration from the Continent: people known as S.W. "B" to the Glastonbury neighbourhood, who made pottery with an elaborate curvilinear design; others known as S.E. "B" to the Ouse valley of Sussex who produced pottery with omphalos bases, Eyebrow pattern, and other designs. The Belgic tribes, or "C" people, came to Kent about B.C. 75 and spread to West Sussex and Hampshire about B.C. 50; and it is to them that pottery with a bead rim may be ascribed.

The Roman occupation brought imported Samian Ware, which was the normal table ware of the whole Roman Empire. A Roman galley laden with Samian Ware foundered on the Pudding Pan Rock in the Thames estuary, parts of its cargo still continue to be recovered, and the lecturer was able to shew a complete Samian dish with the potter's name clearly legible, which was salved from the wreck. Another complete dish, coming from a grave group at Rodmell, was also shewn. Both these dishes were lent by the Brighton Museum.

Lecture delivered by Mr. G. W. Burstow, F.S.A.

on

THE MUNTHAM COURT EXCAVATIONS

The Celtic field system came to this country in the late Bronze Age and lasted to the end of Roman times. Typical sites have been found at Plumpton Plain and Itford dating from the late Bronze Age. The lecturer shewed slides of these and also of the Romano-British village site at Thundersbarrow and another at Highdole, Telscombe. He also shewed a reconstruction of the Iron Age farm at Little Woodbury and a modern native village in South Africa and pointed out their similarity. Slides were shewn of Celtic bronze tools, a saddle quern, a Roman hoppered quern, and many other domestic implements.

At Muntham, where excavations took place in 1954, there were three Early Iron Age hut sites similar to the one found at Park Brow in 1925. In addition there was a circular Romani-British hut, 35 feet in diameter, which seemed to have been used for religious purposes because three ox skulls lay in shallow pits within the circle of the hut, which suggested that they were ritual burials. Besides pottery, the finds included the pommel of a ceremonial stick, the toggle of a horse's bridle, inlaid with a pattern in red enamel, a harness buckle, a solid boss, a bronze finger ring, and fragments which may have been a vase. A spiral bronze wire finger ring and a blue and yellow bead, also found, were probably of earlier date. In view of the apparently religious purpose of the hut, the bronze objects may have been votive offerings.

It was suggested in the subsequent discussion that the site may have been sacred to Cernunnos a Celtic god, whose statue in the museum of St. Germain-en-Laye bears bulls' horns.

Lecture delivered by Mr. E. W. Holden

on March 25th, 1955

THE SMALL SHOP THROUGH THE AGES

The lecturer began by remarking that while innumerable works had been written about every other type of building, the shop had been almost entirely neglected.

The earliest shop, he said, was probably the market stall, much as it could still be seen today, which in most places was the only kind of shop before the Christian era; though excava-

tions in N.W. India indicated that the front rooms of some houses dated 2000 B.C. were used as shops.

In the late first century, early Romano-British towns contained wooden houses with open shop fronts; and later at Caerwent excavations had shown shops placed around the forum, where the business of the town was carried on. The plan, elevation and pictorial reconstruction of a shop excavated at Pompeii (destroyed A.D. 79) was shown.

Advertisements of rooms to let over shops had been found at Pompeii, and the shops themselves must have resembled those found at Wroxeter, which contained some goods which had been on sale in them. Of particular interest was a slide of a fresco of a Roman butcher's shop. The tripod block and the cleaver were almost identical with those in use today, and more remarkable still, a woman cashier was depicted, entering sales in a book.

Very little information was obtainable of Saxon shops. The bulk of the trade appeared to have been carried on in the markets; and goods made by craftsmen sold in their workshops.

A change came at the Norman Conquest, when castles and religious houses formed trading centres, and towns began to grow. Shops began to be made on a definite plan, and the front room of a house which faced the street would have a dressing board which projected into the street and served as a counter for the display of goods. After trading was finished it acted as a shutter to close the window, which was, of course, unglazed. Later the shutter was divided, the lower half forming the counter and the upper half a pent roof.

Most of the goods were still made on the premises, and the workmen could be seen at work through the open window. Few goods were produced for chance sales, which was more a feature of fairs and markets. Trades tended to group themselves together in certain parts of a town, guilds were formed, followed by market crosses, market houses and guildhalls.

Guilds tended to avoid change, and shops in consequence did not change for several hundred years.

Slides were shown of customers making purchases in shops of the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. In the 17th century the number of small shopkeepers increased, as it was possible to borrow money. Wholesale merchants with droves of packhorses carrying goods for sale to shops began to travel the country.

In 1666 an Act of Parliament restricted the projection of stallboards into the street to 11 inches, and the construction of the overhanging pent roof was regulated. Oriel shop

windows on a permanent base, known as stallrisers, also date from this period.

The 18th century was an age of transition from the medieval to our own epoch. The shop continued to be the front room of the owner's dwelling house, and the rise in culture of the period demanded that the shopfront should be treated architecturally as a part of the whole building, and even of the whole street.

At the beginning of the century shop windows were still unglazed, but Addison, in "The Tatler", mentioned recent shops with sash windows, Daniel Defoe in 1726 deplored the modern trend of tradesmen to lay out two-thirds of their fortune in fitting up their shops, anything up to £500 for a pastrycook's or toyshop.

Plate glass became available towards the end of the 18th century, but its cost was prohibitive. In 1795 a piece of plate glass 117 inches by 75 inches cost £404 12s., a fantastic sum in those days. In present day currency it would only cost £13. For this reason 18th century windows were divided by glazing bars, which became thinner as time went on.

Design did not greatly change, bow-windows, elegant fanlights and thin pilasters, some of which have survived, and examples in Sussex could be seen at Ditchling, Arundel, Rye, and one in Battle.

Designs did not greatly change in the early 19th century, and in 1838 there were only half a dozen plate glass windows in Haymarket, London; but in 1845 Excise duties were removed, and shop windows were made to contain as much glass as possible; which led to the criticism that all appearance of support was taken away from the upper part of the building and left an architectural gap. This was still a problem in shop design.

From about 1890 to the 1920's shopfronts were often covered by ornamental carved and shaped woodwork. There were examples of this in Hastings. Arcaded shops fronts, especially those of drapers, came in after the first world war, and window dressing became a serious matter. The Victorian type, however, died a lingering death.

Between the two wars, a flashy style of shopfront, which for want of a better name might be called the "Jazz-Modern" came into being, in which emphasis was placed on attraction and display, and little consideration given to taste or architecture. Another phase had now been entered, and was developing, as could be seen.

There were now about a million retail shops in Britain, and their success or failure ultimately depended on us all—the people whom Louis XIV and Napoleon called "A nation of shopkeepers".

VISIT TO LEWES

On Wednesday, May 11th, 1955

ANNE OF CLEEVES HOUSE

This building, belonging to the Sussex Archaeological Society, contains a very fine collection of ancient tapestries, costumes, weapons, and household furniture. A wing, long devoted to other uses, has now been restored to the building and in it are housed Sussex iron firebacks, and other ironwork, household utensils, and several quaint and complicated machines for turning spits and roasting jacks.

THE BATTLEFIELD

On Offham Hill from a point near the racecourse grandstand, Lieut.-Colonel Lemmon gave a narrative of the Battle of Lewes, which was once described as "A most signal exhibition of foresight and skill on the one side, and of presumption and rashness on the other". The battle nevertheless holds an important place in English History because it resulted in the establishment of the House of Commons. It was therefore appropriate that the Society should visit the battlefield within three days of the anniversary of the battle, and fifteen days before a general election.

The viewpoint selected was on the right flank of the Barons' position on the flat top of Offham Hill where de Montfort formed up his army of some 5,000 men on May 14th, 1264. The left flank rested on the north-east shoulder of the hill where there is now a chalk pit. Here, with large white crosses sewn on their tunics, the whole army knelt in prayer and awaited the King's attack.

Two spurs run down from Offham Hill towards the town. One of these carries the road to the racecourse and points towards the castle which can be seen in the distance beyond the new Secondary School. It was in and around the castle that Prince Edward, later Edward I and "the Hammer of the Scots", had quartered his 3,000 cavalry. The other spur runs down to the gaol and about half way along it can still be found the mound on which stood "King Harry's Mill", in which the King's brother, Richard King of the Romans, took refuge

when the battle was lost. In a straight line behind St. Anne's Church would have risen in 1264 the tower of St. Pancras Priory where Henry III had his headquarters, surrounded by the infantry of his army, estimated at 7,000 men.

In spite of the changed aspect of the battlefield, it is not difficult to imagine Prince Edward's rash advance along the ridge from the castle, culminating in a charge which drove de Montfort's Londoners on the chalkpit end of the hill completely from the field and so dispersed his own force that it took no further part in the battle. One cannot but admire the discipline and tenacity of the Barons' army which stood firm on Offham Hill after one-third had been swept away, and there met the attack of two dense columns of the King's infantry which advanced up the other spur from the gaol site and past the windmill; the right column under the King himself, and the left commanded by the King of the Romans. Richard's column was repulsed, about the very place, it would seem, from which the Society was viewing the battlefield, and the King's column stood alone. Simon now had a two to one superiority; for he had kept a reserve in hand—a most unusual procedure in those days—which he now launched against the King's column which fell back stubbornly towards the gaol. There it turned at bay and there was desperate fighting, to which the discovery in 1810 of no less than 1,800 skeletons which had been interred there amply testifies. By noon the battle was over: the remnants of the King's army were back near the Priory; the King himself having been battered with swords and maces and having had two horses killed under him. The Barons' army stormed into the streets of Lewes, where confused fighting went on during the afternoon particularly at the river crossings. Simon proposed a truce during the night. This resulted the "Mise of Lewes", whereby he became the virtual ruler of the country for the next 15 months. In December he issued writs to summon two citizens or burgesses from every city and borough to Westminster, as well as the usual two knights per shire; and so the House of Commons came into being.

SOUTHOVER GRANGE

This building now belongs to the Corporation. It is faced principally with Caen stone taken from the Priory and was built by William Newton, steward to the Duke of Dorset, in 1572. William Newton came from Cheshire about 1544 and the Grange remained in the hands of his descendants until the second half of the 19th century. The Newton family was very ancient, and Sir Isaac Newton claimed to belong to it. The

grange was originally an H-shaped building, comprising a central hall and two wings projecting to the east and west. The vestibule, the staircase hall, and the extension of the south wing are modern. The Newton arms in high relief appear on the south face of the northern wing. In the north wing is an original Elizabethan oak staircase; and there are several stone fireplaces, three dated 1572, 1629, and 1675; while two with carved spandrels are of the early 16th century, and were probably removed from the Prior's lodging in St. Pancras Priory. A stone in the garden wall is dated 1729, and a lead pump head 1789.

With Southover Grange is associated the name of John Evelyn of Wotton, the diarist. The entry in his diary for 1625 when he was five years old reads: "I was this year sent by my Father to Lewes, to be with my grandfather Standsfield. This was the year in which the pestilence was so epidemical that there dy'd in London 5,000 a week; and I well remember the strict watches and examinations upon the ways as we passed." Two years later Evelyn records: "My grandfahter Standsfield dyed this yeare on 5 Feb. He was buried in the parish church of All Souls, where my grandmother, his second wife, erected a monument. It was not till the yeare 1628 that I was put to learn my Latine rudiments and to write of one Citolin, a Frenchman, in Lewes. I was put to schoole to Mr. Potts, in the Cliffe at Lewes; and in 1630 from thence to the Free-schole at Southover neere the town, of which Edward Snatt was the master. This yeare my Grandmother (with whom I sojourn'd) being married to one Mr. Newton, a learned and most religious gent, we went from Cliff to dwell at his house in Southover."

Evelyn had not far to go when attending the Free School, as the site on which it stood lies within the present walled garden of Southover Grange.

VISIT TO RYE

on Wednesday, June 8th, 1955

Members visited the Town Hall, Ypres Tower Museum, Mint, and Church; of all of which detailed accounts can be read in the Victoria County History, Sussex, Vol. 9, page 39. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. G. M. Hodgson for describing the buildings visited and to the Corporation of Rye for exhibiting their treasures in the Old Court Hall.

VISIT TO MICHELHAM PRIORY AND CLAVERHAM MANOR

on Wednesday, June 29th, 1955

This meeting, held in very favourable weather was attended by 64 members. At the Augustinian Priory of Michelham, near Dicker, the Society was welcomed by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Story; and were fortunate in being able to hear the history of it from so eminent an authority as Mr. L. F. Selzman, C.B.E., F.S.A., President of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The Priory, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded in 1229 by Gilbert de Laigle (the De Aquila of Kipling's "Rewards and Fairies") for 13 Canons; but for various reasons this number appears seldom to have been kept up. In 1353, three years after the Black Death, only 5 Canons remained. The Priory received many endowments of land during its existence, and was valued at £81 in 1291, and £191—19—4 at the Dissolution. As important landowners the Priors served on commissions for draining Pevensey Marshes, raising troops for the wars, collecting clerical subsidies, and drawing up returns of lambs, sheaves, and fleeces. On September 14th, 1302, Edward I spent a night at the Priory on his way from Lewes to Battel. At a visitation held in 1441 it was found that Laurence Wynchelse the Prior had wasted the timber and goods of the house, and had sold books, millstones, building material, and cattle; that the Canons were underpaid and half starved, and that the younger ones were ignorant of grammar. The buildings were in disrepair to the extent of £100, and the Prior was ordered to limit his personal household to 6 persons and 4 horses. He was condemned for perjury and disobedience, but was still prior 6 years later. At another visitation in 1478 general mismanagement was again found. No accounts had been kept for 28 years, and there were only 6 Canons, who frequented an alehouse. Absence without leave was also common; one Canon having returned after 15 years' absence. The Prior, Edward Marley, also survived the visitation. The last Prior was Thomas Holbeme who retired on a pension of £20. The establishment at the Dissolution consisted of 8 priests, 1 novice and 29 servants. The Priory was given to Thomas Cromwell, whence it was exchanged successively to the Earl of Arundel, and to Queen Mary (1553). The site and manor were acquired in 1587 by Henry Pelham, who sold to Lord Buckhurst in 1601. They remained in the Dukedom of Dorset

until 1825, when they passed to Lord Amherst, and were then bought by J. E. A. Gwynne of Folkington. The lordship of the manor was afterwards acquired by Horatio Bottomley.

At Claverham Manor members were welcomed by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Tuck, who very kindly dispensed hospitality. Mr. Salzman, in giving the history of Claverham, said that little was known about the house itself, but Domesday Book states that Reinbert held half a hide in Henhurst which belonged to Berwick and Claverham. Claverham was of interest to the Society because a part on the west side of the town of Battle was formerly called Claverham, and one of the Guildhalls stood there in the 12th century. The owners of the manor included Sir Thomas Fynes, grandson of Sir Roger Fynes who built Herstmonceux Castle. It remained in the Fynes family until 1636, when it passed to the Threels, who held it till 1700. Sold successively to Dr. Thomas Short and Thomas Medley, it passed to the Schuckburghs and so to Viscount Portman, from whom the Shoesmiths bought the house.

VISIT TO ERIDGE CASTLE

on Wednesday, July 9th, 1955

This meeting was attended by 64 members. The seat of the Marquess of Abergavenny is not, as its name might indicate, a venerable pile with moat, drawbridge, towers, and keep, but a building which was completed as lately as 1939. In one portion of it, by the generosity of the owner, is housed a very fine collection of historical costumes collected over the last thirty years by Mrs. Doris Longley Moore, the exhibition of which was opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother about one month before the Society's visit.

The period covered extends from the reign of George II to the present day. With the ladies, brocaded panniered gowns give place to the simple flimsy white dresses of the Napoleonic period, to become gradually more elaborate again until a climax is reached with the mid-nineteenth century crinolines; then, through the bustle period to the hobble skirts and large hats. The "Bright Young Things" of the nineteen twenties are there with their short skirts and cloche hats, and so eventually to the latest creations of Christian Dior.

Men's fashions have not waxed and waned in this manner, but shew a gradual decline in picturesqueness from long embroidered silk coats and waistcoats, through the stock,

striped waistcoats, and tails of the early nineteenth century, to orders of dress which, except for slight variations, have now been in vogue for many years.

Exhibits which particularly caught the eye were Queen Victoria's well-known hat in which she appears in many of her later informal photographs; the group of three ladies wearing the crinoline fashions of 1750, 1850, and 1950, to shew that the crinoline appears regularly at the half-century; and the extraordinary striped bathing dress in which gentlemen played tennis in mid-Victorian days. Not a little of the success of the exhibition is due to the lifelike dummies and their natural poses, supplemented by background panels designed by Miss Daphne Brooker of the Royal College of Art.

EVENING VISIT TO ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BECKLEY, AND TO THE SITE OF GLOSSAM MANOR

on Wednesday, July 27th, 1955

About 30 members attended and were welcomed by the Rector of Beckley, who kindly acted as guide. The oldest part of the existing church is the tower, on which Anglo-Saxon herring-bone stonework can be seen on the lower part, evidence of the existence of a church on the site from before the Conquest, and probably for over 1,000 years. The upper part of the tower is transitional Norman of about 1150. The nave and chancel were rebuilt as at present in the decorated style about 1350. A substantial increase in the population in the latter part of the 18th century led to the erection of galleries which were lit by the present dormer windows. In 1886 a complete restoration of the church was carried out by Sir Reginald Blomfield. The galleries were removed; the damaged pillars rebuilt, the modern vestry built and the organ installed. At the same time the north porch and doorway were removed, and all the old woodwork, including a three-decker pulpit, was replaced by modern handicraft. The features of the church are the beautiful chancel arch which has an unusually wide span; the Lady Chapel, often called the Knelle Chapel, because it formerly belonged to the Lords of the Manor of Knelle, and was their burial place; the flight of steps in the south wall of the Lady Chapel leading to the former rood screen; and an old oak chest which may well date back to the 13th century. By a charter granted early in the 12th century, Beckley Church belonged to the prebends of St. Theobald,

one of the ten prebends of the College of St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings. Prior to that it had been appropriated to Battle Abbey and was no doubt served by a priest from that Abbey.

The site of Glossam Manor, to which members accompanied by Canon Wilson proceeded is reached by a somewhat lengthy walk over very rough ground. All that remains at the presend day is the dry moat which may have been filled in the past from the spring which still rises nearby. Glossam Manor was bestowed on Battle Abbey in the reign of King Henry I; and the Manor House is reputed to have been destroyed during the Wars of the Roses and not subsequently rebuilt.

VISIT TO ICKLESHAM CHURCH AND DURHAMFORD MANOR

on Saturday, August 20th, 1955

On arrival at Icklesham Church members were welcomed by the Rector, and the church was then described by Mrs. Bevan. An account of this church appears on page 187 of Sussex, Vol. 9, of the Victoria County History. The Society was unable to carry out its original plan of visiting Wickham Manor near Winchelsea owing to the illness of the owner, Anthony Freeman, Esq., F.S.A.; and visited instead Durhamford Manor, Sedlescombe; which was shewn and described by the courtesy of the owners, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Swan, who said that unfortunately not very much was known about the history of this very picturesque timbered house. Members subsequently visited the adjacent Spilsteds Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burnet. This very good example of an early seventeenth century farmhouse was described by Mrs. Burnet. The Society is indebted to all those who kindly gave descriptions of the places of interest visited.

VISIT TO TWYSSENDEN MANOR NEAR GOUDHURST AND BEDGEBURY PINETUM

on Wednesday, September 14th, 1955

This ancient manor house was, at the time of the visit, a youth hostel; but Mrs. Strang, a former tenant, very kindly came to meet the 40 members of the Society who attended, conducted them over the building, and gave them its history.

The estate dates back at least to the reign of Edward I (1272-1307), when it was owned by Adam de Twyssenden. There is a deed extant signed by Roger Twysden in 1404 which is sealed with the impression of a cockatrice; a crest still borne by branches of the family. At the beginning of Henry VI's reign (1422-1461) the estate was sold and subsequently passed through the hands of: Roger Riseden of Riseden, Jeffry Allen, Thomas Windhill, the Austen family, whence it passed by marriage to Anthony Fowle about the time of Charles I (1625-1649). Anthony Fowle devised the estate to his second son Simon Fowle. Soon after his death in 1672 it passed into the hands of the Bathurst family. At the beginning of the 18th century the house was the residence of Jeffry Gilbert, Chief Baron of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and was then owned by John Norris, son of Admiral Sir John Norris. In 1790 the manor was sold to the owner of Bedgebury, John Cartier, and it has since been incorporated with that estate. When Mr. Beresford Hope came into possession of Bedgebury, Twyssenden was in a very ruinous condition, and he spent a large sum on its restoration.

There is every reason to believe that a dwelling house has existed on the site of Twyssenden Manor House for at least 600 years. The original plan appears to have been the usual arrangement of entrance passage running through the house, with a great hall on one side, a parlour beyond, one or two chambers above, and on the other side a kitchen, pantry, and other offices. In one of the bedrooms is a large oaken arch, shewing that the great hall was open from floor to roof, having large open fireplaces at each end; while the king post and beams in the roof still shew blackening by smoke.

The older half-timbered part of the house may be assigned to the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509) as also the handsome wooden doorway. The bold stone part was built by the Fowle family in the reign of Charles I. To the early 17th century may be assigned the charming panelled room, and the room which has a wall covered by pattern painting of graceful design, with verses from the Marriage psalm worked into it. In the next room is a fine old chimney piece. The richly carved oaken staircase may date from the latter half of the 17th century. In the kitchen is a whipping post. The arms of the Fowle family (Gules, a lion passant guardant between three roses or) appear on the mantlepiece in the panelled room and on the stonework.

In the roof is a small room which served as a chapel for the secret celebration of the Mass in post-Reformation times; and from it access can be gained to a "priests' hole" by remov-

ing a panel. A secret passage passes from the priest's hole to another room on the floor below in which traces of wall paintings remain. It may be mentioned that some fine monuments to the Bathurst family are to be seen in Goudhurst Church.

Before returning, members visited the Bedgebury Pinetum, a branch of Kew Gardens, which contains a fine collection of forest trees and shrubs, many of which are rarely seen in this country. Grouped around a lake and illuminated by the rays of the setting sun they presented a scene of great beauty.

FINDS AND FIELDWORK

The stone axehead, the finding of which at Staplecross, was reported in the Society's Transactions for 1953-54, was apparently manufactured in North Wales. It was submitted to petrological examination. The report by the British Museum (Natural History) is highly technical and too long to be given in full; but the following is an extract: "Your specimen may be compared with a specimen E.16236 from Craiglwyd Quarry, Carnarvonshire, described as a fine grained augite-entstatie granophyre. Two stone axe factories have been found near Craig Lwyd utilising different varieties of the granophyric or granodioritic rock of the area. It is important to note that due to the decomposed nature of your specimen the rock type cannot be matched exactly."

COMMEMORATION OF THE 889th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

Lecture delivered by Mr. R. W. Southern, M.A., Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford

THE ENGLISH REVIVAL AFTER THE NORMAN CONQUEST

The symbol and climax of the long struggle towards English recovery after the Conquest was the Translation of the body of the newly canonized King Edward the Confessor to its new shrine in Westminster Abbey on October 13th, 1163, ninety-seven years almost to the day after the Battle of Hastings. The close association of the day of the battle, 14th October, and the day of the Translation, 13th October, is

probably accidental, but in a real sense the Translation looked back to the tragedy of 1066. On his death-bed, King Edward had prophesied, as it was thought, that the royal house, which was severed from its root, would in time be grafted once more onto its parent stock; and this obscure prophecy was held to have been fulfilled in the accession of Henry II the gt-gt-gt-grandson of Edmund Ironside to the English throne. Henry II had, of course, very little about him that was English, but his accession was nevertheless greeted as a sort of triumph by those who cared for English traditions. To understand their feelings we must go back in imagination to the Conquest.

The Conquest destroyed a civilization which was in many ways different from that of the rest of Western Europe. The old English aristocracy was much less powerful and less well entrenched in military strongholds than the aristocracy of Northern France; the old English monasteries were less numerous and probably much less highly disciplined than those with which the Duke of Normandy was familiar; there were no Cathedral schools; there was little diocesan organisation. But what struck the Norman conquerors most powerfully was the great wealth of objects of art, of gold and silver work, of elaborately ornamented manuscripts, and of ecclesiastical vestments and embroideries. Many of these they pillaged and distributed among the monastic houses of Normandy. Another point which attracted their attention was the multiplicity of Anglo-Saxon saints with uncouth names, venerated in England and unknown elsewhere. Those in authority, like Archbishop Lanfranc, sought to extirpate this, as it seemed to them, ill-regulated veneration of local worthies. Finally England was the only country in Western Europe with a learned literature in the vernacular. These were peculiar growths and they were all threatened with destruction at the Conquest. Probably they would not have survived the Normanisation of England but for the existence of a large Anglo-Saxon element in the greater English monasteries for at least two generations after the Conquest, by which time the sharp-cut distinction between the two races, the conquered and the conquering, was becoming blurred. These men were instrumental in preserving much of old English history by preserving its records and historical traditions. The monasteries of Canterbury, Worcester, Peterborough and Malmesbury were the main centres at which this work of preservation was carried on. These monasteries had their roots in the English past and because of this the monks of these houses were committed to the work of preserving this past even if they were foreigners by birth. English history was in the bones

of men brought up in these surroundings. It was through them that the study of English history and the veneration of English saints gradually crept back into repute, especially during the first thirty years of the twelfth century.

On the artistic side nothing could repair the ravages of the Conquest, nor could anything stand against the new ideas in architecture and book decoration which flooded into England in the wake of the Normans. But it has recently been shown, especially by the work of Professor Wormald, that even in this field the English traditions held their own better than had formerly been suspected. Although the types of decoration changed, the habits of craftsmanship remained and many lines can be traced which connect the illuminated Psalters, Bestiaries, and other works of manuscript illumination with the traditions of Anglo-Saxon England. Constitutionally it has long been recognised that English institutions survived and formed the mould of Norman government at every level from the royal court down to the local courts of hundred and shire. What we are now only beginning to understand is the great variety of ways in which the art and learning of the twelfth century was influenced by the persistence of English habits throughout the dark period of the Conquest.

R. W. SOUTHERN.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN BATTLE PARISH CHURCH

A special service was held in the Parish Church, Battle, on Sunday evening, 16th October, by kind permission of the Dean of Battle, a Vice-president of the Society. The service was conducted by the Dean and the address was given by the Rev. Canon F. W. Bullock, Ph.D., M.Litt., B.D. The lessons were read by Mrs. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Sir John Thorne, the Chairman.

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 4th, 1955

The reports of the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were adopted and the Chairman commented on the fall in membership. The present membership was 224 and the balance of funds at the end of the year, including a reserve of £25—19—7, was £40—0—4. In spite of the fall in numbers the income from

subscriptions had increased as a result of the alteration in the rules made in 1954, by which the annual subscription was raised to 7/6. Votes of thanks were passed to Miss Crozier, Hon. Secretary since 1953, who had resigned in May 1955, owing to ill-health; and to Mr. Beechey for his services as Vice-Chairman.

The following were elected officers for 1955-56: Chairman, Sir John Thorne; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. E. Marson (in place of Mr. Beechey, who did not offer himself for re-election); Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. F. Room; Hon. Secretary, Miss K. H. Davis. Committee: Mr. C. T. Chevallier, Miss R. Chiverton, Mr. A. R. Clough, Mr. D. W. Crew, Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, Miss C. A. Kirk, Lt.-Col. C. H. Lemmon, Miss M. J. Powell, Mr. L. H. Pyke and Mr. W. Raper.

Two documentary films were then shewn: "Houses in History" and "Looking at Sculpture".

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