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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

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Trust

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NOTE:—The Society is in no way responsible for the opinions of contributors as expressed in the above articles.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The seventh year of the B.&D.H.S. saw the first Social Evening of the Society. It was held at Powdermill Hill, which our Vice-President, Mrs. E. Harbord, most kindly made available for the occasion; and some 75 members spent a very enjoyable evening.

During the year, 4,804 visitors paid for admission to the Museum—601 during the winter months, and 4,203 during the summer. This number would undoubtedly have been greater if there had been no petrol shortage or bus strike. For four and a quarter summer months only in 1956 the figure was 4,117, making a total of 8,921 since the Museum was opened.

In the Essay Competition last year, three out of the four prizes were won by schoolgirls. This year the boys have more than redressed the balance, as all four prizes went to Glengorse School; but it was a disappointing competition because there were only 11 entries altogether.

We record with regret the death of our member Mrs. Eileen Chown, a keen archaeologist who gave valuable help to the Society from the beginning. She bequeathed to the Museum and Library her archaeological books and collection of flints and pottery.

Three members of our Society, who are also members of the Souvenir Normand, were among the party of 21 which visited Rouen between August 10th and 13th, and were entertained by the French members, and the Mayors of Rouen and Dieppe. Relations between the B.&D.H.S. and the Souvenir have been close since the English branch was re-formed in 1954. Our Chairman is ex-officio a committee member of the Souvenir, and two of our members also are at present on the Committee.

The Society is very grateful to Miss Margaret Babbington, O.B.E., for her interesting lecture on Canterbury Cathedral, and for subsequently taking the Society round that historic fane; also to Mr. W. H. Dyer for his lecture on "Hastings through the Ages". It was felt, however, that in both cases a condensed article in these pages would do scant justice to subjects on which much literature is available, so they have been omitted. Mr. G. P. Burstow's interesting article on "The Vix Treasure" has, with regret, also been omitted, as it did not deal with local matters. It is hoped to place transcriptions of lectures which have been omitted from the *Transactions* in the Library for reference.

Lecture delivered by the Late Mr. A. Wilson on Friday, November 16th, 1956

GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S NEWS

The lecturer built up a picture of life in the early years of the 19th century in Maidstone and surrounding district from a file of old newspapers. The earlier extracts recorded meeting of Deputy Lieutenants, Magistrates, and military officers for the purpose of drawing up plans against the threatened Napoleonic invasion, against a background which shewed the rise of Wellington and the genius of Nelson. Amusements went on however during this anxious time: a match was played by the Benenden Heath Cricket Society, dancing, tea negus, and cards were enjoyed by the Town Assembly at the Star Inn, and the Repertory Theatre put on seven plays in one week. Musical Society Concerts followed by a ball, tickets five shillings, were also held at the Star. There were state lotteries in 1802: tickets were farmed out to contractors; drawing took six days, and the total prize money was £15,000. In November 1808 a footrace of four miles from the Star on Chatham Hill to Rainham between a Rochester gentleman and a sergeant of the Guards resulted in a win by the former.

In January 1809, Queen Charlotte's birthday was celebrated. The Poet Laureate wrote a special ode, which was set to music by Sir William Parsons, who, by command of King George III, had to take the music from Handel's works.

Posting was a government monopoly. Concessions for various districts were put up to auction, and contractors in Kent and Sussex were expected to pay as much as £20,000. Posting and stage coaches were of course killed by the railways, and in 1843 advertisements for railways can be seen with a woodcut of an engine, tender, and carriage of three compartments.

Among public meetings recorded one, at Maidstone Town Hall in 1812, was for the purpose of founding a county branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, of which the avowed object was stated to be "nothing less than the temporal civilisation and the eternal happiness of the whole world". This society of course is still active. In the same year the Mayor requested the company of his friends and neighbours at the Court Hall to drink the health of Lord Wellington and his brave comrades in arms. In 1814 the Mayor convened a meeting "to consider the propriety of raising a subscription

towards the relief of the poor at that inclement season". £500 was raised. In 1828 there was a meeting at the Star Inn for the purpose of "taking into consideration the hardships and privations to which the labouring poor are subject from total inability to procure a sufficient quantity of wholesome beer for their support".

Justice was severe. In 1801 sentences of death were passed on two men for stealing lambs, and on another for returning from transportation. The abuses of flogging in the army are vividly brought to mind by the announcement that a former colonial governor had been sentenced to death for the murder of an army sergeant twenty years before, by causing him to be flogged with 800 lashes. On the other hand the debtors in Maidstone goal in 1802 inserted an advertisement in the paper thanking William Coleman Esq. for "humanely presenting a sum of money for their relief".

Canterbury cattle market was the scene of a strange incident in 1814: a cattle drover sold his wife, with a halter round her neck, to a postboy for a gallon of beer and one shilling.

In 1801 the Bishop of London asked his clergy to submit a return of food crops in their parishes!

Advertisements of the period are interesting and amusing. A church preferment for sale in 1815 was said to be worth £700 to £800 a year, which seems a very high figure. Glass was dear; an advertisement records that the price of a bottle of medicine had to be raised from 5/6 to 6/- to meet the increased cost of the bottle. Mr. Lygon, who described himself as a surgeon-dentist to the Royal Household, was not above advertising that he invited inspection of his "improved mineral teeth, which assimilate to nature in every way". Other advertisements proclaim the merits of Ching's Patent Worm Lozenges, and Dr. Brodum's Botanical Syrup and Nervous Cordial.

In the realm of politics it is difficult to realize now that such measures as the Catholic Emancipation Act and the Reform Bill aroused such violent opposition at the time. In October 1828, a Benenden Heath meeting, one year before the former became law, passed a resolution praying that "The Protestant Constitution may be preserved entire and inviolate". The Press records much opposition to the Reform Bill until it necame law in 1832. The Press however can only report what happened "yesterday", and not "tomorrow"; so that changes on the way may be much closer than might be imagined from a perusal of newspapers.

That the status of Malta, so recently debated, should have been in the news in 1802 is of interest. In that year six deputies arrived in England to solicit His Majesty to keep possession of that island. Today one party wants to be as English as the Isle of Wight, and the other as British as Canada. Egypt, then as now, was a source of trouble. In 1800 the Beys were rebelling against the Turkish Government, and a leading article in the Press commented: "The only solution likely to avert from the Turkish dominions the ruin which impends over them is to continue to garrison the principal fortresses of Egypt with British troops". Later it was reported that two British regiments in Malta had been ordered back to Egypt.

In conclusion, the lecturer gave it as his opinion that in many respects the practices and habits of the early 19th century were very similar to what they are today; "The more things change, the more they remain the same". The period dealt with was not very far away—only two spans of his own life, or one-tenth of the time which had elapsed since the end of Roman rule in Britain.

Lecture delivered by Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon, D.S.O. on Friday, November 30th, 1956

ANGLO-NORMAN, OUR FATHER TONGUE

In many respects the English language is unique. With a vocabulary greater than that of any other modern European language, it has a very simple Teutonic grammar, but largely conforms to the Romance model in Syntax. The child of a Romance father, Anglo-Norman, and a Teutonic mother, Anglo-Saxon, it partakes of the characteristics of both parents. It is well to define what is meant by Anglo-Norman; because its popular name Norman-French is misleading, and should properly be applied only to the dialect spoken in Normandy. Anglo-Norman was the Norman dialect of 11th century French, which, after being implanted by the Norman conquerors in this country, developed quite independently from that across the channel. It was Norman as spoken in England. Now Norse and not French was the original language of the Normans: they had adopted French since landing about the mouth of the Seine only 154 years before they invaded England. They must have spoken it rather like foreigners, so that the language they brought to this country, although called French, really differed from the Parisian French of that period as much as Portuguese does from Spanish today. Chaucer points out this difference when speaking of the Prioress in the Canterbury Tales:

"And Frenche she spake ful fayre and fetisly
"After the scole of Stratford atte bowe
"For Frenche of Paris was to hire unknowe."

But French of Paris was not unknown generally in England. Some native Englishmen wrote in it, considering it, perhaps, more elegant than Anglo-Norman. Thus the epitaph of Eleanor de Bohun in Westminster Abbey, and the will of the Black Prince are both written in French of the 14th century, which does not differ very much from that of the present day. The personal correspondence of the Black Prince, however, was conducted in Anglo-Norman.

The language should have a special interest for English people because 40% of our vocabulary is derived from it, against 30% derived from Anglo-Saxon, and 30% from other

sources; yet few Englishmen, apart from Professor Studer, seem to have interested themselves in it. In educational establishments in this country it is completely ignored; although Anglo-Saxon is studied to a certain extent. It has been otherwise with foreigners: Vising, a Swede, made it a life study and wrote an important work; Moisy, a Frenchman, has compiled a glossary; Suchier, a German, has published some Anglo-Norman texts with commentaries; but these books are hard to get and are written in the languages of their authors. Meanwhile there is no grammar or dictionary in English. This is really extraordinary when we consider the wide distribution of the language and the long period of 350 years during which it was in use.

What was our Father Tongue like? We cannot be absolutely certain of its pronunciation, but in its early stages that must have been much the same as 11th century French, for which Joseph Anglade, a professor of Toulouse University, gives rules in his *Grammaire Elémentaire de l'ancien Francais.* It is apparent that when introduced it was pronounced much more like English than French; not because it was anglicised, but because Old French was pronounced in that way; in a way which has survived to a large extent in Spanish.

From Anglade's rules numbers of English words can be recognized as having brought their Anglo-Norman pronunciation with them: examples are *chance; chief, joy, judge, mail, money, quaint.* It is also apparent that the Cinque Ports were called the *Sink Ports* and not the *Sangk Por*; and the town crier really cried *O-yes*, or rather *O-yetz*, and not *Oy-yay.*

Generally speaking, the grammatical structure of Anglo-Norman resembled that of modern French; but the nouns still had two cases left; so that prepositions were few and word-order elastic, as in a fully inflected language. It was rich in vocabulary; and Moisy gives over 5,000 words, most of which have never been French, though a large number of them are everyday words in English. A few of such, taken at random under A, B and C, are *acre, alter, annoy, aunt, bacon, barge, board, can, cabbage, carriage, cat, chance, chair,* the maritime expressions *afloat, aboard,* and *aye aye,* and our useful little word *any.*

The rapid spread of Anglo-Norman was due to the large number of French-speaking settlers and the fact that teaching in the schools was conducted in it.

It has been estimated that up to the end of the Conqueror's reign 200,000 Normans and Frenchmen had settled in England, while the native population had shrunk to a

million and a half. At least one-eighth of the population therefore spoke a French dialect as their native tongue. Anglo-Norman was the official language of the country, preached in the churches and taught in the schools, as well as that of Parliament and the law. In the early 14th century, Holcot, a schoolmaster, records that for the last 200 years children had been taught first Anglo-Norman and then Latin.

There are many passages in the works of contemporary writers, whether Norman or native, explaining that it was necessary to write in Anglo-Norman in order to be understood by the majority of the people. Thus an Englishman, Peter of Peckham, who wrote a life of the Sussex Saint, Richard of Chichester, about 1267, says in his preface that he has written it in 'French' as well as he can, because

Mes de plusurs desiré
Que fust en franceis translaté
Ke lais entendable pot estre.

"it is much to be desired that it should be translated into 'French', so that it may be understandable to ordinary people."

Statements such as these (and there are many more to be found) are strong proof of the dominance of Anglo-Norman and its penetration even into the lower strata of English society. About the turn of the 13th/14th centuries English was probably at its lowest ebb, and occupied much the same position as Welsh does in Wales today. Only the peasantry knew no Anglo-Norman, which had become the common language of all practical intercourse.

At that time Anglo-Norman literature became very abundant: there were romances, scientific works, lives of saints, medical recipes, cookery books, and an encyclopaedia, of which over 400 have survived till the present day. Among them were three unique productions: *The Rolls of Oleron*, the first known code of seafaring laws; *Li Mystere d'Adam*, the oldest extant play in the vernacular; and *Li quatre Livres des Reis*, the earliest translation of any section of the Bible into a French language. Anglo-Normans did more than this: they brought the country once more into contact with Latin civilization and introduced many classics such as stories of Troy and Thebes, the romance of Aeneas, tales of Alexander, Prester John, and the Sleepers of Ephesus. On the other hand they opened the treasure-house of Celtic imagination to Western Europe, and the translation of wonderful tales of fairies, sorcerers, seers, magic, and spells into Anglo-Norman gave them a fecundity which they never possessed in Irish

or Welsh. In this category we have the Legend of King Arthur, Tristan and Iseult, and the Holy Grail. A good example of a romance is the *Chancun de Willame* (Song about William), produced in England in the 13th century. William the Margrave of Bordeaux, is taking his 15 year old son Guy with him to do battle against the Saracen King Deramid who is ravaging the French coast. He arms him for the fray and mounts him on his wife's piebald palfrey. The description of Guy is rather charming.

Petiz est Gui — *e li chevals est granz*
Pié e demi — *est sur arcuns paranz*
E sul trei deie — *suz le feltre brochanz*
Mielz portat armes — *que uns hom de trente anz*
Gui point Balcan — *si li laissat la resne.*

This would have been pronounced somewhat as follows:

Pettitz aysth Wee, ay lee chevahlz aysth grahngtz,
Pee-ay ayd mee aysth soor arsoonss pahrahngtz,
Ay sool troy doy-ay sootz lay feltray brochahngtz
Mee-eltz portahth armss kay oonz omg day trahng tahngtz,
Wee point Balsahng see lee layssahth lah rein.

The poem is written in a lilting doggerel, which would make the verse quoted appear something like this in English:

For his horse is so big, and young Guy is so small,
That a foot and a half can be seen, that is all
Above the large saddle; while lower perhaps
His spurs reach three finger-breadths under the flaps.
Were he thirty, no better could he arms sustain,
As he sets spurs to Balcan and gives him the rein.

Some interesting relics of the Anglo-Norman language are provided by epitaphs, of which two may be seen within a few miles of Battle. That of William de Echyngham in Etchingham church is partly in doggerel verse, of which Anglo-Norman writers seem to have been particularly fond. It runs as follows:

De terre fu fet & forme
Et en terre fu retourne
Wilham de Echyngham estoie nome
Dieu de malme eiez pitee
Et vous qi par ici passez
Pur lalme de moi pur Dieu priez

Qi de Januere le XVIII io de cy passai lan nre seignour mill trois centz quatvintz sept come Dieu volant ento my noet.

Of earth received I form and frame
My body doth the earth reclaim
William of Echyngham was my name
O God, grant pity and not blame.
And you who pass upon your way,
That God my soul may pardon, pray.

I passed away from here on the 18th of January in the year of Our Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty seven, as God wished, about midnight.

The record of the time of death must be rather a rarity.

The epitaph of Sir William Fiennes in Hurstmonceux church is what is called a "pardon brass', and reads as follows:

William Ffienles chevaler qy morust le XVIII jour de Janeuer lan del incarncon nre (seignour) Jheu Cryst mile CCCC II gist ycy Qy pur sa alme devostement pater noster et ave priera CXX jours de pardon enavera.

William Fiennes, knight, who died the 18th day of January in the year from the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ one thousand four hundred and two, lies here. Whosoever devoutly prays Our Father and Hail Mary for his soul shall have one hundred and twenty days pardon.

Rather amusingly, Boutell, when he put this inscription in his *Monumental Brasses*, added the words *Dieu de sa alme eyt mercie*. He must have been puzzled by the absence of the usual petition that God may have mercy on the soul of the deceased, and thought that he had omitted it himself in copying. The inscription must be one of the last in Anglo-Norman, still the language of these two local English gentlemen, who both died on January 18th, ten generations after the conquest.

The decline of Anglo-Norman began about the middle of the 14th century. Although Oxford students were enjoined as late as 1344 not to speak English, John Cornwaile, a schoolmaster, ceased to teach his pupils in Anglo-Norman in 1348. In 1362 an official document stated that it had become an unfamiliar tongue, and an act of Parliament of the same year decreed that English should be the language of the law courts because *"la lange franceis est trope desconue"*. In 1363 English was first used at the opening of Parliament. Henry IV, born in 1367, was the first king to speak English as his mother tongue. By 1365 all grammar schools were teaching in English.

In 1408 John Gower wrote the last piece of Anglo-Norman literature, apart from Parliamentary papers. In 1419 an interpreter had to be found before the French commander at Pont de l'Arche could parley with the besieging English army. After a life of 350 years, Anglo-Norman as the language of England seems to have become extinct about the second decade of the 15th century.

The tradition of recording legal and official matters in a French language, however, persisted: thus parliament rolls were not written in English until 1425; and the House of Lords continued to debate in what was probably 'French of Paris' until 1483.

Legal proceedings were conducted in French, though not universally, even to the reign of Charles II; and records of lawsuits were written down in "Law French" as late as 1731. It was a curious jargon, as may be judged by the title of a legal work produced in 1668: *Un abridgment des Plusiers Cases et Resolutions del Common Ley, Alphabeticalment digest desouth severall Titles.*

A few survivals of the use of French in Parliament still remain in the Royal Assent, *La Reine le veult,* and the endorsement on bills: *Soit baillé aux Seigneurs, Cest bille est remis aux Cummunes avec des amendmens, Soit faict come il est desiré* and *La Reine s'avisera.* These survivals, however, have little to do with Anglo-Norman, which disappeared as a separate language when it united with Anglo-Saxon to produce Middle English. It had served its purpose as a father tongue, and without it we should not have inherited the flexible and expressive language we possess today.

C. H. LEMMON.

Lecture delivered by Mr. J. Mainwaring Baines, B.Sc., F.S.A. on Friday, December 14th, 1956

SUSSEX POTTERY

Very little has been written about Sussex pottery, but old records such as Court Rolls, leases and easements, indicate that many mediaeval kilns were scattered throughout the country to provide household crockery for everyday needs.

Many of these were no doubt associated with local brick and tile works, but others might have been associated with religious houses. For example, Battle Abbey in 1521 granted a lease to a John Trew, a potter; and there were references to a pottery at Wilmington, which might have been associated with the Priory.

The name "Old Sussex Pottery" was, however, given to a special type of earthenware manufactured in the county in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was an earthenware burnt red, often with a rich lead glaze, and at times bearing simple decoration in "slip" (pipeclay applied in various ways and showing yellow through the glaze). A frequent characteristic feature of such pottery was a black speckling, due to the presence of iron in the clay.

Apart from ordinary household ware, typical forms of Old Sussex Pottery were the Sussex Pig, with a detachable head to form a drinking cup, money-boxes (which usually had to be broken to extract the money), pocket flasks, tobacco Jars and canisters.

In addition to local records, old newspaper files and census reports frequently provided valuable references to the existence of these local potteries and the persons associated with them.

There were records of mediaeval potteries at Brede, in Broadland Wood, but about 1755 another pottery was established about one mile away in Pottery-lane, near Cackle-street. Towards the end of that century the pottery came into the hands of the Weller family, who carried it on until it closed in 1892, when the clay ran out.

A mid-nineteenth century price list of the "Old Established Brede Pottery", gave a good picture of the range of goods made and their current prices.

At Hastings there were 18th century references to a pottery in the parish of St. Clements, but very little was known about it. In the early part of the 19th century there was a

pottery at Silverhill, St. Leonards, adjoining what was now Sedlescombe-road North, between Duke-road and Paynton-road. Its main products appeared to have been pans and crocks, flower pots, drainpipes and chimney pots. Some of the latter were used on houses in Magdalen-terrace, Bohemia-road. The works closed in 1886.

The Rye Pottery was believed to have been started at the brickyards at Cadborough, owned by James Smith at the end of the 18th century. He was succeeded by his son, Jeremiah Smith, seven times Mayor of Rye. About 1840, the pottery passed into the hands of the Mitchell family, who carried on the production of Old Sussex Ware at Cadborough until 1871. In 1868 Frederick Mitchell established a separate pottery at the Belle Vue Works in Udimore-road, where the manufacture of pottery was still being carried on today.

Frederick Mitchell developed what he called Rustic Ware. His designs aimed at a rural motif and decorative patterns were cast from moulds and applied to the pots. The design which made his work specially well known in Sussex was the hop.

Pictures of designs mentioned in the lecture were thrown on the screen by epidiascope; and some specimens of Sussex pottery were afterwards placed on exhibition in the Museum.

Lecture delivered by Miss M. J. Powell on Friday, January 25th, 1957

SHEPHERDS' BELLS, CROOKS, AND ROUND SMOCKS

Sheep have roamed our Downs for centuries and the study of shepherds and their ways is of great interest. Three crafts have been closely associated with them—those of the blacksmith, bellmaker and needlewoman.

The symbol or badge of office, one might say, of a shepherd has always from time immemorial been his crook. Hammered out by the blacksmith from an old gun barrel or iron bar in his forge, the pattern was always the same. While the guide might take on a fancy curl according to the inclination of the smith, he always took great care that it would glide smoothly over the sheep's leg and the distance between the guide and the barrel did not vary. The only exception to this was an occasional crook made for lambing when the space was

then enlarged to go round either the lamb's body or neck. A few brass crooks have been made, but proved unreliable in use; and no shepherd liked a polished crook, as he felt it was liable to attract lightning in a storm. The shafts of crooks were made from hazel—most favoured—ground ash, holly or cherry and the shepherd usually had a few put by for seasoning. The most famous forge in Sussex for making crooks was undoubtedly at Pyecombe. To own a Pyecombe crook was something to be proud of. This forge had been making crooks from the 17th century and did so until quite recently when Mr. Mitchell, the last of the family who owned it, died. Not all the crooks they made were for shepherds. Latterly, large numbers were carried by bishops and for this purpose they have been sent all over the world. Kingston and Fulmer were also noted for crook making.

Sheep bells were beloved of the shepherd and were, too, his property. He took great pride in them and in the way they were attached to the sheep. What sweeter sound than the tinkle of the bells across the Downs, gone now, I am afraid, for ever? Many different kinds of bells were used; but the most popular fell into three types. Cannister or clucket bells, which were made of sheet iron folded into shape rather like an inverted bag with a clapper inside. Crotals or rumblers sometimes known as sleigh bells of the same style as the little brass bells we used to attach to reins when we were children. The little round ball or pea rolled about inside, hence perhaps the name. Then horse bells or house bells, the type which were cast, being the same shape whether they were in a belfry or attached to a sheep, varying only in size. These differed from the other bells in so far as they were definitely tuned and were often made in sets. The number and maker's name were frequently impressed inside the rim. The shepherd could buy his bells at the local fair; but more often had them passed down from his father or some other old shepherd. Old bells were cherished and not lightly parted with. They were attached to the sheep in different ways from just a plain leather strap to quite an elaborate tackle. A small wooden yoke was made which in turn was attached by means of two leather straps to a wooden chin board. Slits were made in the yoke and chin board through which the straps and bells were passed and held in place by lockyers made of bone or wood. The shepherd would spend many hours whittling out the yoke, chin board and lockyers as he watched his sheep. Yew was popular for the yokes and pieces of chestnut paling made good chin boards. Occasionally the tackle was painted the bright colours we

used to see on farm waggons; but for the most part they were left plain, and after years of use, rubbed by the greasy wool, acquired a beautiful patina many housewives would like on their furniture.

Smocks or round frocks were once the general wear of the countryman. Very nearly waterproof, very strong and hard-wearing, they were an ideal garment. The shepherd wore one as he roamed the Downs with his flock. The early smocks were made of homespun linen but latterly of a very strong twill. The material was about a yard wide and as there were no patterns the smocks were cut out by the clever way the cloth was folded. The wife or sweetheart would measure her man from the chest to where the hem was to come, and then weave or buy three times that length of cloth. Two-thirds of the cloth was reserved for the skirt, and the remaining third was so folded and cut that it provided the sleeves, collar, boxes, pockets, and yoke. The two sides of a smock were identical: the pockets being placed across the side seams. The yoke was smocked, thus drawing the gathers to the body, but allowing complete freedom of movement because the smocking gave like elastic. Down the sides of the yoke were the boxes; and on these straight pieces of material were worked the lovely patterns which depicted the occupation of the wearer. Bearing in mind that no "transfers" were used, and that all the embroidery was done freehand with a few simple stitches such as feather, chain, and stem, it is remarkable what beautiful work was produced. A shepherd's smock would be worked with crooks, sheep-pens, and hurdles; while a woodman would have trees and leaves; and a carter or waggoner cart-wheels, whips, reins, and bits. The smocks varied in different localities, but here, in Sussex, they were mostly drab or grey, with white for wedding or Sunday wear.

M. J. POWELL.

Lecture delivered by Mr. G. P. Burstow, B.A., F.S.A. on Friday, February 8th, 1957

THREE YEARS' EXCAVATIONS AT MUNTHAM COURT

Wherever evidences of early cultivation were to be found, said the lecturer, some kind of settlement nearby must have existed. Aerial photography having revealed traces of a large settlement on the Muntham Court estate not far from Findon, the lecturer and his partner Mr. Holleyman, with a large band of helpers of all ages, laid a portion of it bare during three successive holiday seasons.

It proved to be an Iron Age I settlement of the Halstatt Culture dating approximately from the 5th century B.C. There have been other Halstatt sites excavated in Sussex, notably at Park Brow; but the settlement at Muntham Court would seem to be unique for size and the light it threw on the period. On the chalk level just below the surface were found hundreds of post-holes. So numerous were they that it was impossible to deduce either the general plan of the settlement or the ground plans of the huts which comprised it; but the holes left by the posts of a boundary fence gave some indication of its limits. Several triangular loom weights proved that weaving was practised. Many storage pits for grain were found and shallow hollows thought to be winnowing floors. Fragments of pottery of the period were found in such quantities as to prove an embarassment; and after sorting, that not required, amounting to hundredweights, was returned to the site. In order that future excavators should not be misled, a halfpenny was placed in every hole in which it was dumped.

Superimposed on a portion of the site were the remains of a very different culture and date—a circular Roman shrine 35 feet in diameter, of a type unique in Southern England. It is not known whether the shrine was a roofed building. It appeared to have been dedicated to a Celtic animal cult, as the ceremonial burials of three skulls of oxen of Celtic breed, each with an accompanying food vessel were unearthed. A rubbish pit was found alongside the shrine, and again hundredweights of pottery were discovered, including Samian Ware of almost every known form, as well as native Romano-British.

Among this a fine collection of Roman bronze objects came to light, including a Fibula (brooch) of which the pin worked perfectly, bosses of horses' harness, handles and

ferrules of sticks, a beautiful little enamelled ornament shaped like a fish, in perfect condition, an enamelled plate, and a bronze model of a pig. The last named find, also unique in its way, is thought to be Celtic work, and it made an appearance later in a B.B.C. television programme.

Lecture delivered by Mr. L. H. Pyke on Friday, February 22nd, 1957

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF BATTLE AND WHAT THEY RECALL

In his introduction the lecturer remarked that while most history consisted at best of glimpses here and there of certain facts with many guesses, the history of Battle within the last 100 years was a period about which we can really know nearly everything if we take the trouble to collect the records. It was a task well worth doing, and he hoped to inspire some members to help him in completing it. He was very grateful to the donors and lenders of old photographs and to those who had supplied information.

The Battle of only 50 years ago was now a vanished world, and to our descendants in another 50 years would seem as remote as the monastic period. Yet many of us lived in it: a world of great families and great estates, when all work and amusement was performed by horse or hand; and there were no motor cars, or mechanised entertainments. When the poor were very poor and class barriers were high, although they were penetrated all the time by good sense, good humour, affection and loyalty; so that strange to relate we all had more control of our own lives and were not ordered about from the cradle to the grave.

Old photographs help us to look back on these times, some of the oldest we have having been taken 92 years ago, only 26 years after the invention of photography in 1839.

There was little change in the general shape of Battle down the centuries until 1924: the separate holdings remained about 115, the number of the Abbey tenants recorded in 1180; but on the break up of the Abbey estate in 1924 houses began to appear along the North Trade, Hastings, and Whatlington roads, and also Marley Lane, which thereafter ceased to be a lane.

Photographs were then shewn dated 1870, taken from the top of the Abbey Gateway, which shewed the Black Mill which

was burnt down in 1872. It stood on the site of "Whitehays", Caldbec Hill; Langton House in 1870 was seen to be creeper-clad. It was probably a two-storied 16th or early 17th century house originally; the third story and central balcony, which gives it its unique appearance, having been added about 1700. The house is named from the Langton family, one of whom, Mrs. Elizabeth Langton, left £1,500 to endow a charity school. Right and left of Langton House were two interesting old shops, replaced between 1898 and 1902 by private houses which are frightful examples of the lack of architectural taste then current. They are now shops again. One of the shops in the 1870 photo was Paul Pemble's, whose leather gloves, gaiters, and Battle Jacks (rabbit-skin hats) were known far and wide. He also made penny cricket balls, one of which is in the Museum. Next door, now the Gateway Tearoom, was the shop of the Battle saddler, 'Tubby' Weller; there were Wellers in Battle in 1770, and the business was going in 1838. During the First War Mr. Jack Bailey launched the "Battle Rabbitjack Cottage Industry" to meet the demand for the old rabbit-skin caps caused by war shortage. About 90 persons were employed and orders were even placed with Marshall and Snellgrove. Mr. Jack Bailey afterwards bought the Abbot's Cottage in Upper Lake, where he had an antique shop, and his son John was this Society's first Honorary Treasurer.

Next door to the "Gateway" is a 17th century house occupied by the Maidstone and District Omnibus office, and Mr. Douch the greengrocer. In the 1870 photo it is seen as the home and place of business of Francis William Ticehurst, printer, publisher, bookseller, and stationer. The Ticehurst family in Battle traces back to Joseph, born about 1660. Thomas lived at Almonry Farm in 1692. Thomas's grandson William (1767-1852) had 13 children, and was High Constable, Postmaster, Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and Parish Clerk, as well as being a land surveyor and, in 1806, master of the Langton School. As High Constable he was responsible for the billetting of troops in the neighbourhood during the Napoleonic War, and also for the plans to evacuate civilians in case of invasion. He is buried just South-east of the tower of the parish church. William Ticehurst's son Francis was born at the "Old House" (where Mr. Hendry the Veterinary Surgeon now lives) in 1811. In 1833 he bought the house we have been talking about (now 76 and 77 High Street), and there he lived for 70 years. Like his father he was a man of many parts. Besides printing, he farmed some of Barrack Farm lands and ran a coal business. He was also at different times Deputy

Superintendent Registrar, Clerk to the Guardians and Postmaster. In 1838 while he was Postmaster the coach carrying the Royal Mail arrived from London at 3.40 a.m., and then went on to Hastings, Rye, Hythe, Folkestone, Dover, Deal and Margate. The return coach left for London at 10.50 p.m. At 12.30 a.m. a mail cart arrived from Eastbourne, Lewes, Brighton, and Worthing, and one left for the same places at the same time. At 7 a.m. the local postcarts left for Bexhill, Sedlescombe, and Westfield. Coaches other than the Royal Mail left daily from the George at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and from the Star at 11.45 a.m. In 1834 Francis Ticehurst was one of the mounted escort which accompanied Princess Victoria and the Duchess of Kent to St. Leonards. In 1870 he was associated with a small company to work the gypsum which had just been found at Mountfield. He died in 1902 having lived in five reigns, including the whole of that of Queen Victoria, and there is a memorial window to him in the church. Francis's son was Frederick Gorham Ticehurst, who described himself at the age of 20 as an "Artist Photographer and Practical Electrician". He was versatile like his father and grandfather, and was at different times Clerk to the Burial Board, Guardians, and Rural District Council, as well as Registrar and Churchwarden. He was a founder member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers; and as early as the eighties he installed electric light and telephonic communication in the family home and offices. He also made weather-recording apparatus and electric clocks. Many of his photographs survive; and Battle is fortunate to have had such a gifted photographer in the early days of photography. For most of this information about the Ticehurst family we are indebted to Francis William's grandson, Major Cecil Ticehurst of Bexhill.

A photograph taken about 1865 shews little change from today in the appearance of the Abbey Gateway. The towers were crenellated as now; but this was not always so, as an engraving of 1828 shews no crenellation. A photograph of 1871 shews the "George", of which J. Couchman was landlord, and Emeleus's chemist's shop with the window as we know it, but the proprietor was W. Harold. Next below is the bow-fronted shop of S. Carrick, the bootmaker. Next door to that, where Mr. Holland's butcher's shop now is, can be seen the Post Office and the clock which looks like a watch, which we now have in the Museum. It remained the Post Office until 1918. The Postmaster in 1871 and till the end of the century was J. T. Dunn, who was also tailor, habit maker, and woollen

draper. He built the existing Post Office and let it to the Postmaster General. We next come to Hunt's the baker's and Soan's smithy, which both stood on the ground now occupied by Messrs. Till's showrooms. Any account of Battle must contain some account of this famous firm. Although the first authenticated owner was a Hammond, it is nonesense to say that the business was founded by John Hammond the last Abbot of Battle. One of the shop chimneys is dated 1700, and account books exist for the period 1714-1733. In the Museum we have a rule inscribed "C. Lawrence, Battle 1805". Lawrence, who had married into the Hammond family, succeeded to the business and afterwards took his son-in-law George Till into partnership. Then the business passed to William Till, who turned it into a limited company.

Three photographs were shewn of Battle decorated for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. The one which looks down High Street shews the Congregational chapel as now. It was built by Mr. Jonathan Jenner of the Mill in 1881. Next to it, and now Jenner and Matthew's garage, is a typical timber-framed 18th century house which still has a fine oak staircase. In 1902 it was three shops: W. A. Jenner's bicycle shop, Mathis's the watchmaker and jeweller, and Longley's the barber. W. A. Jenner decided to build a motor car in 1892, but it was not completed till 1901. It was a vis-à-vis model called the "Senlac", and everything, except rough castings for the crankcase and cylinder and tyres, was made in Battle. Jenner cut the gears on a six-inch lathe and even made the sparking plugs. He also made the body. Its performance was better than many of its contemporaries, and a run of 100 miles with only one stop and no punctures or breakdowns was recorded—a most unusual feat for those days.

The visit of King George V to Battle Abbey in 1929 is recalled by a photograph of His Majesty coming out of the west porch with Mrs. Jacoby. Finally, an interesting record is provided by the photograph of the Battle bomb. After the "Baedeker" raids on Bath and Canterbury, some German aeroplanes came in very low up Marley Lane on February 7th 1943. A bomb was aimed at the Abbey, and Miss Foote at the "Gateway" saw it coming down. The plane was so low that the fuze was knocked off, and the bomb itself, then harmless, went through the gateway and came to rest close to the high explosives which were stored in the base of the western tower. A second bomb unfortunately killed Mrs. Tickner and her second husband. A third was meant for the church, but it fell on the cricket ground, and ricochetted nearly to Watch Oak.

VISIT TO KING JOHN'S LODGE, ETCHINGHAM, ETCHINGHAM CHURCH, AND BUGSELL FARM, ROBERTSBRIDGE

on Wednesday, May 1st, 1957

This, the first outing of the season, was held in fine, warm, spring weather, and was attended by 47 members. On arrival at King John's Lodge the Society was welcomed by the owner, Mr. H. M. Horsley, who admitted that although the central part of the house, built of stone, probably dated from the 13th century, there was no evidence that it really had any connection with King John. It was, perhaps, built as a hunting lodge at a time when the Weald was covered by thick forest. The lane near which it stands, he said, is called Sheepstreet, that is Shipstreet; a reminder that the Rother was once navigable as far as Etchingham. A red brick wing was added in Tudor times; and a final addition in 1930 was so cleverly built that it blends perfectly with the older parts of the house. The interior pannelling is quite modern, and it is Mr. Horsley's intention to remove it eventually and restore the walls to their original state. In the spacious cellar is the original well which once supplied the household with water. It is now disused, and the present water supply comes from a spring of clear water in the grounds.

Etchingham Church

The Church of the Assumption and St. Nicholas at Etchingham has been claimed both as the best example of a 14th century church and the finest building in the Decorated Style in Sussex. It was visited by the Society, under the guidance of Mr. W. E. Meads on September 22nd, 1951; and his description of it can be read in the *Transactions* for 1950-51. Owing to the recent death of the Rector, a lady member of the congregation pointed out the interesting features. The following are intended as supplementary notes to Mr. Meads' description.

The East window contains the arms of John of Brittany, Edward III, The Black Prince, and John of Gaunt, and commemorates the Battle of Rye Bay, otherwise called the Battle of Espagnols sur Mer, at which all were present. An account of the battle, the date of which was August or September 1350, appeared in the *Transactions* for 1953-54. There

are 18 escutcheons in the aisles, clarestory, and west windows, and it has been said that no other church in Sussex has so much heraldic glass. There are six fine brasses in the chancel. That of the founder, Sir William de Echyngham, is claimed to be the finest of the curvilinear period in Sussex, though it does not appear in Boutell's *Monumental Brasses*. A Latin inscription records that he rebuilt the church. The Anglo-Norman inscription, partly in rhyme, is dealt with in the article on Anglo-Norman in this number. Beneath a canopy is a triple brass of Sir William's son William, Lady Johanna his wife, and Sir Thomas de Echingham their son, all of early 15th century. The south aisle of the nave contains small brasses of Elizabeth de Echyngham 1450, and her sister Agnes Oxenbrigg 1480. Against the south wall is the altar tomb of the last of the Echynghams, Sir Thomas, and his wife Margaret West, daughter of Lord De la Warr.

The name Echyngham has been improperly spelt Etchingham in recent times. Various suggestions have been made for the origin of the name: "The settlement of Ecci's people"; "The great (ecen) settlement"; and the "Settlement of the dwellers on the point (ecg)", the latter referring to the spur which runs down between the rivers Dudwell and Rother.

Bugsell Farm

Members were welcomed by Mrs. Wilson who, with her son, pointed out the items of interest in the house. A fine Tudor fireplace in one of the sitting rooms had only recently been discovered, as the aperture had been bricked up and covered with wallpaper, leaving only a small modern grate. Near the farmhouse are traces of the old mansion of the Buxhulls or Boxshalls, one of whom, Sir Alan Buxhull, a Knight of the Garter and Constable of the Tower of London, slew the knight Hawle and his servant in Westminster Abbey, where they had taken sanctuary in 1378. The name Buxhull means *beech tree hill*, and the family may have taken it from the place or vice-versa. It has been corrupted to Bugzell, and quite recently to Bugsell.

VISIT TO GREAT DIXTER, GOTELEY OLD MANOR, AND NORTHIAM CHURCH

on Wednesday, May 29th, 1957

Forty-three members attended. The Society had visited Great Dixter and Northiam Church previously, on April 23rd, 1952, and an account appeared in the *Transactions* for 1951-53.

The Society was welcomed at Goteley by Air-Commodore and Mrs. Mylne, who pointed out the quaint features of this old house, which they have recently restored. Few details of its history are known, but the site is historical, for it was in 1414, the year before Agincourt, that Robert Oxenbridge conveyed the Parke and Bromfield in Northiam to Henry Gotele or Gotlee, Lord of the Manor of Westfield.

VISIT TO BREDE PLACE AND BREDE CHURCH

on Saturday, June 22nd, 1957

Forty-three members attended. Brede Place and Brede Church were previously visited by the Society on June 9th 1954, and a short account appeared in the *Transactions* for 1953-54. Captain Frewen also dealt with the history of Brede Place in his lecture on November 26th 1954, reported in the *Transactions* for 1954-55.

VISIT TO CANTERBURY AND CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

on Wednesday, July 10th, 1957

Thirty-five members attended. In view of the large amount of literature about Canterbury, no account in these pages is considered necessary.

VISIT TO GREAT WIGSELL AND BODIAM CASTLE

on Saturday, July 20th, 1957

The thirty-two members who attended this meeting were welcomed at Great Wigsell by Lady Milner, an eminent resident of the Battle Rural District. Sister of the first war corps commander, Sir Ivor Maxse, and Leo Maxse, editor of the *National Review*, her first husband was Lord Edward

Cecil, third son of Queen Victoria's last Prime Minister Lord Salisbury, and her second husband Lord Milner, Governor General of South Africa. During her second widowhood she herself edited the *National Review* for many years. Members were shewn round the house by members of Lady Milner's family, and the following history has been contributed by Mr. C. T. Chevallier.

The first record we have of Wigsell is that in 1166 it belonged to the Count of Eu, who inherited from his great-grandfather the Lordship of the Rape of Hastings, as we know from Domesday. It lay in the north-east corner of Henhurst Hundred; so that it is unlikely to be one of the 14 unnamed branches of mid-Sussex manors which Domesday records as established in that Hundred, but probable that it is one of the six others which were older than that colonisation. Its situation within 600 yards of the Rother tributary called Kent Ditch suggests an early riverine settlement; for, remembering the speed with which river deposits raise the level of valleys once embankment has begun, it is probable that at the time of the English settlements the Kent Ditch was navigable up to nearby Conghurst.

In 1166 the name was spelt Wickeshale, and in the 13th century Wiggeselle or Wyggeshulle, which the Place Name Society suggests means *Wicga's Hill.* There is no hill, however, close to Wigsell, and a settlement on the nearest hill would run counter to the whole pattern of Jutish or Frisian settlements at this end of the county. A simpler explanation is that the earlier spellings point to *Wigges sele* meaning *Wig's Hall. Wig,* meaning warrior, was a fairly common Saxon name. Similar names in the district are Breadsell, and Boarzell. Eighty years after Domesday the Count of Eu's tenant was William de Wigsell, who held a knight's fee. Before 1348 Alice de Wigsell had inherited the place, and with her husband sold it that year to John Colepepper, in whose family it remained until about 1635. Therefore from before 1166, and perhaps from 1070, until 1635, a period of some 500 or 600 years, this beautiful manor lay in the possession of only two families, a fact which must have conduced to the air of peaceful consolidation which the holding displays, so remote from the world outside until the Junction road was built about 125 years ago.

William English, who bought the place from the last Colepeppers, began, according to Hayley, as a stable boy in their service. He had reconstructed the house by 1643, his initials and those of his son appearing in the porch.

As a blank shield is beside them, he may have been unable, owing to the Civil War, to obtain a grant of arms; or it may merely denote his pride in his humble origin.

His family sold the place in 1652 to one Bowman, the first of a series of different owners, until in the early years of the present century the Micklethwaites sold Great Wigsell to Lady Milner, or Lady Edward Cecil as she then was. We must all be grateful to her for the beautiful condition to which she has brought the house, and preserved it despite the difficulties of the times.

Bodiam Castle

The Society visited this castle on June 6th 1951, when Mr. Alfred Duggan acted as guide; and the talk he gave on that occasion can be read in the *Transactions* for 1950-51. On this occasion members were taken round by Lieut.-Col. Lemmon, who contributes the following supplementary remarks.

From the bank of the moat opposite the Postern (south) gate we get a good idea of the former extent of the Rother Estuary. Just to the left is the small harbour or dock which served the castle. Quite recently a bank was thrown across its entrance to make it into a pond. If we imagine this removed and the dock filled with tidal water, the high water mark is apparent, and it is seen that the estuary must have been, as Mr. Margary states in *Roman Ways in the Weald*, 450 yards broad, extending right across the flat green fields to the south. The Roman road from Maidstone, Rochester and London skirted the Kent Ditch estuary, topped the hill at Court Lodge, passed the "gun platform" (now considered to be a Roman lookout station), and crossed the end of the Rother estuary where there was either a causeway, or a ferry. The castle was built close alongside it, and the footpath to the castle roughly marks its course. The broad flat area between the castle and the car park could not have been a tilt yard, as was once supposed, because it is lower than the little harbour.

Sir Edward Dallingridge was a well-known man of his time. He had fought at Crecy and Poitiers, was one of the subsequent peace negotiators, and afterwards Custodian of the Tower and Governor of the City of London in 1392. His coat of arms, *Or, on a cross engrailed gules, a cross of billets*, appears in the middle over the main gateway, and above it his crest, a unicorn's head. On the left are the arms of his wife's family, Wardeux, *Argent, a fesse dancetté sable bezanté*; and on the right those of his elder brother's wife, Radynden, which

he inherited, *Sable, six martlets or, three two and one.* The arms over the south or postern gate are those of his old commander in the French wars, Sir Robert Knollys, *Gules, upon a chevron argent, three roses gules,* crest, a ram's head.

The front, or north side, of the castle has been called "one of the noblest facades of medieval military architecture in Britain". The earthen causeway leading from the present entrance gate to the islet called the Octagon in the middle of the moat is not original. Lord Curzon's excavations disclosed the foundations of a long bridge running lengthwise in the middle of the moat from a still visible bridgehead on the west bank to the Octagon. Between the Octagon and the castle gateway is another islet on which are the ruins of the Barbican. The gaps between the islets and the gate must have been crossed by drawbridges, operated like the gangway to a ship, for no means of raising them are visible.

The castle is entered by a long vaulted passage, closed by the original portcullis still in position, and a modern replica of the old folding doors. There are two other portcullis slits; the reason for the third one being a puzzle to the experts.

Around the courtyard inside, the domestic buildings were compactly arranged: staterooms and chapel on our left as we enter, Hall and kitchen in front, and retainers quarters on our right; but all walls giving on to the courtyard, except some of the kitchen block, have been rased. The fine windows of this block give us some idea of the charm the courtyard buildings must have possessed when entire. Their perished state points to deliberate destruction during the civil war, and not to mere ruin and pilfering; for excavations have proved continuous occupation during the 15th and 16th centuries.

In the museum is a facsimile of the Royal licence to crenellate in the national interest: a rare type of licence. The torso from a monument, in the museum, was formerly thought to be that of Sir Edward Dallingridge, as it was found on the site of Robertsbridge Abbey which he founded. As however it wears the Lancastrian SS collar, instituted by Henry IV, it must be that of his son Sir John.

VISIT TO BATTLE ABBEY
on Wednesday, August 21st, 1957

The visit followed the lines of previous visits. A description of the Abbey and the battle appeared in the *Transactions* for 1950-51, with further notes on the battle in the number for 1955-56. About 24 members attended.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 891st ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

The Dean of Battle, a Vice-President of the Society, conducted the annual special service in the parish church on Sunday evening, October 13th 1957, which was attended by about 40 members. The rendering of the choral parts of the service by the large choir in their scarlet cassocks was most impressive. The sermon was given by the Rev. T. M. Evans, a member of the Society. Preaching from the 21st chapter of the Revelation, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth", he said that any new heaven or new earth must evolve from the past in which all new things were rooted. We, as a historical society, were interested in the past. In history one always found that there was the good and the bad; and a society like ours had to make decisions what to preserve and what to reject. It was a great responsibility; but not of such paramount importance as to examine our own lives, reject that which was bad, and carry forward only the good into the future. The lessons were read by Mr. A. E. Marson, Chairman, and Mr. B. E. Beechey, a former Vice-Chairman.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Raymond Williams, M.A. on Wednesday, October 16th, 1957

THE PLACE OF THE HISTORICAL NOVEL IN HISTORY

The historical novel, as we understand it, is a comparatively modern development. All early literature is in a sense historical, in that the customary period in which the action of plays, poems and stories was set was a period in the past. Shakespeare hardly ever wrote directly about his own time, and as late as the eighteenth century it was considered undignified, in the higher forms of literature, to set action in the present. The development of a middle-class reading public, from the first half of the eighteenth century, is associated with a growth of realism which found expression, among other things, in settings of a contemporary kind. Not until the habit of contemporary realism was established could the 'historical novel', as we understand it, be conceived.

In England the historical novel is a product of the Romantic movement, when in many fields there was an idealization of, or quickening of interest in, the past. Scott's success with *Old Mortality* and *Ivanhoe* led to a lively tradition, carried on by Bulwer Lytton, Thackeray, Dickens, Kingsley and Charles Reade. Most of these writers also wrote stories set in their own time, but subsequently a special class of 'historical novelist' has apparently developed.

In fact, of course, whatever period a story may be set in, the writer is predominantly expressing the interests, ideas and feelings of his own time. At its worst, this leads to the 'costume novel', in which twentieth-century characters are dressed up as Romans or Crusaders. At its best, the method can take two forms. There is, first, that of 'comparative realism', where the writer either takes a recorded personal history, and re-tells it with an addition, from other sources, of historical context, or, starting with an unrecorded personal story, that has been imagined from experience, tells it in a historical setting that has been carefully studied. There is, second, the method in which a past event is used as a formula, as Shakespeare used the stories of Hamlet or Lear: Thomas Mann's *Joseph and His Brethren* is a modern example.

The use of historical novels in history is not easy. History gains greatly from the realistic literature of a past period, which records evidence not only of facts but of feelings, that could not easily be otherwise gained. But the value of the good modern historical novel is in the first place a literary value: a record of human experience, wherever set. Where the method of 'comparative realism' has been used, the historical novel may be of value in stimulating interest in a past period, especially where professional history is of a technical kind that may not be easily appreciated at first. It is fatal, of course, to confuse works of literature with documents: the value of one is imaginative, of the other factual. Yet, since the human record is much wider than of things made and publicly done, the record of literature is indispensable, if we are to understand our present and our past.

RAYMOND WILLIAMS.

SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 1st, 1957

The Chairman remarked that the total membership stood at 223, a drop of 42; but that there had been an encouraging influx of new members in the Society's new year. The balance of funds at the end of the year was £58—9—5 in the General Account, which was satisfactory; the Museum Account was overdrawn £60—15—8.

The Hon. Mrs. Whistler, who was due to retire, was re-elected a Vice-President. The following were re-elected as officers for 1957-58:—Chairman: Mr. A. E. Marson; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. R. Clough; Honorary Secretary: Major L. C. Gates; Honorary Treasurer: Mr. R. W. Bishop, vice Mr. P. F. Room who has left the district. The Committee was reconstructed as follows: Mr. L. H. Pyke, Mr. W. Raper, and Sir John Thorne, the three members due to retire in rotation, were re-elected for three years till 1960. Major C. D. Grant was elected for two years till 1959, vice Mr. D. W. Crew.

After the meeting Mr. H. T. Winter gave a lecture on "Kipling and Sussex", which, for reasons of space, will appear in the next number of the *Transactions*.

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