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**BRISTOL
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GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**TRANSACTIONS
1977**



VOLUME XCV

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BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1876. Its objects are to promote the study of the history and antiquities of Bristol and Gloucestershire of every period; to encourage their conservation and to publish original records, excavation reports and other papers relevant to this field of study.

A volume of *Transactions* is published annually and is issued free to all members. In addition special volumes are occasionally published by the Record Section of the Society.

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Field meetings at places of archaeological and architectural interest, including private houses not open to the public, are held in spring and autumn. A Summer Meeting lasting three or four days affords similar opportunities further afield. Evening lectures are given during the winter at Bristol, and can be arranged at other centres.

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of the
BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
for
1977

EDITED BY
B. S. SMITH, M.A., F.S.A.

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Contents

	PAGE
I The Prehistoric Occupation of Churchdown Hill. By H. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A....	5
II Salmonsbury, Bourton on the Water. By H. E. O'Neil, M.B.E., F.S.A. ...	11
III Wells' Bridge, Barnwood. By B. Rawes ...	24
IV Archaeology and the M5 Motorway. Gloucestershire 1969-75: a Summary and Assessment. By P. J. Fowler, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A. ...	40
V Pilgrim Signs and other Badges. By S. Barker. ...	47
VI Thornbury Castle. By A. D. K. Hawkyard ...	51
VII Dr Abraham Gregory, Prebendary of Gloucester Cathedral. By S. J. A. Evans, C.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. and S. Eward ...	59
VIII Chest-tombs and 'Tea-caddies'. By W. R. Elliott ...	68
IX Higher Education in Bristol and Gloucestershire, 1650-1750. By J. R. Holman ...	86
X The Jacobs of Bristol, Glassmakers. By Z. Josephs ...	98
XI NOTES:	
Archaeology in Gloucestershire, 1973-75 ...	102
Bristol Record Office Accessions, 1974-75 ...	104
Gloucestershire Record Office Accessions, 1974-75 ...	106
XII REVIEWS:	
N. M. Herbert, ed., <i>Victoria History of the County of Gloucester</i> , Vol. XI ...	108
N. Orme, <i>Education in the West of England, 1066-1548</i> ...	109
J. P. Nelson, <i>Chipping Campden</i> ...	109
E. Hodgson, <i>A History of Tetbury</i> ...	109
J. Reidy, ed., <i>Thomas Norton's Ordinal of Alchemy</i> ...	110
XIII Society Notes ...	111
XIV Index ...	125

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Society Notes

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 1976

The one hundredth Annual General Meeting was held in Gloucester Cathedral on Wednesday, 14 July 1976 at 2.30 p.m. The President, Miss Elizabeth Ralph, was in the chair and there were 148 members present. Apologies for absence were received from 29 members. The meeting was held within the Summer meeting as part of the centenary celebrations. The members were welcomed by the Dean of Gloucester and the Mayor of Gloucester. Mr David Large, Chairman of Council, read the Report of Council for the year 1975. This was adopted. The annual Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts were presented by the Honorary Treasurer and adopted. The President gave her Presidential address: 'Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society—Some personalities.'

The President entertained the members to tea in the Chapter House, after which members attended Choral Evensong. This was followed by a visit to a special exhibition, 'Antiquarian Gloucestershire', which had been arranged in the Art Gallery at Gloucester.

THE SOCIETY'S CENTENARY

Speech of Dr Arnold Taylor, C.B.E., M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A., President of the Society of Antiquaries, proposing the toast of 'The Society' at the Centenary Dinner, Council House, Bristol, on 8 April 1976.

Madam President, My Lord Mayor, My Lords Bishops, Mr Mayor of Gloucester, Mr Vice-Chancellor, Mr Dean, Members and friends of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. To which distinguished salutation I cannot help wondering whether in this year of grace 1976 I ought not also to add some such welcome to newcomers as "Sweet Swan of Avon thou shouldst be with us at this hour", even at the cost of confusing one Avon with another. I imagine those who have the destinies of the Society in their hands will already have been anxiously debating whether or not to move with the times and sandwich the river name between the city and the county names of our century-old title, thereby I suppose giving us 'BAGS' as a sort of 'with-it' counterpoise to 'CRAAGS', which I am told is already a far from negligible element in the contemporary archaeological landscape.

You will have been able to see already, Madam President, that part of my natural trepidation in having the temerity to accept the invitation you so kindly extended to me to come and share in your festivities this evening, was not just the certainty that I should leave unsaid many of those things that I ought to have said, but the likelihood that I should not get very far without saying things I ought not to have said. However, as I look around at my captive audience, I cannot but be comforted by the story of the young university lecturer, whom I fear perhaps some of you will have encountered already, who, when taken to task by the head of his department for airing his views, was quick to point out that of those who were entitled to come and hear him, only about half came anyway; and of those who came, only half listened; and of those who listened, only half understood; and of those who understood, less than half would probably remember; and of those who did

remember only a small minority would be likely to agree; so perhaps the damage was really not much to worry about. I hope it may be so this evening.

My first real word to you on this happy occasion must be one of great appreciation that you should have thought of asking me to be with you as the representative of the Society of Antiquaries of London, that venerable Old Lady of Burlington House, who by the official reckoning was already in her 170th year when you were born in 1876. From that day until this the two Societies have shared common aims and objectives, have exchanged *Journals* and *Transactions*, and throughout the years there have generally been something between a dozen and two dozen members of the one society who have also been Fellows of the other. We have worked together in various enterprises, amongst which I would recall the Antiquaries' sponsorship of the Cirencester Excavation Committee, in the chairmanship of which your own past-President, Captain Gracie, followed the Antiquaries' President, the late Sir Ian Richmond, whilst it is also in Gloucestershire, at Deerhurst, that the Antiquaries are currently deploying the main effort of their research project on the archaeology of the English church. It is my privilege to convey to you, at this auspicious gathering, their fraternal greetings, warm congratulations and good wishes for the future.

In thinking about what I should try and say to you this evening I have been greatly helped by being able to see an advance copy of the wonderful short history of the Society's first hundred years which you, Madam President, have contributed to the Centenary volume of *Essays in Bristol and Gloucestershire History*. I have also been doing a little homework of my own in the way of some comparative study of *B & G Transactions* I (1876), XLVIII (1926) and XCIII (1974). It is natural to look back to the half-way mark and to Roland Austin's record of the first 50 years which he read at the Jubilee Meeting in Gloucester on 21 April fifty years ago, and wonderful to know that some who were there then are also with us here tonight. It also very much interested me to discover that in that same Jubilee year, at the summer meeting here in Bristol, you most fittingly elected as your President Alexander Hamilton Thompson. A native Bristolian, he was this city's finest medieval scholar, and when he said, as he did on that occasion, that it was from reading the early *Transactions* that he began to study archaeology seriously, no county archaeological society in the land could have had a greater tribute paid to the value of its publications.

1926 was an important year for me as well as for you, and perhaps you will allow me to tell you why. Up till then we had always been to the sea for our summer holiday, generally to North Wales (for the mountains and the castles) or to Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands (for the mountains and the Lakes). But in 1926, when I was just 15, my father took us to Great Malvern, truly a wonderful centre in the days when people had feet and railways had branch lines with trains on them. In the course of that month's holiday, which I shall never forget, I saw for the first time the two Malvern priories (and incidentally first heard the name of G. Mc.N Rushforth), the churches of Pershore and Leominster and Evesham and the Evesham bell tower; I saw the cathedrals of Worcester and Hereford, and in the distance from the charabanc, the castle of Goodrich. Most important of all, for my presence among you on this memorable evening fifty years later, it was then that I first set foot in Gloucestershire, and first saw Gloucester cathedral and Tewkesbury abbey and Deerhurst church and Odda's chapel. Little did I think then that it would one day fall to me to be instrumental in assuring that little chapel's permanent safe-keeping as a national guardianship monument, our vigilant county correspondent for Gloucestershire, Helen O'Neil, having alerted me to other and less worthy fates that might be in store for it. I have never forgotten that first impression of the superb interior of Tewkesbury, or how I was intrigued then (as I still am) by the perpendicular overlay of the romanesque at Gloucester and the way the tower buttresses come down inside the transepts and link like airborne webs of stone across the arches of the crossing. Our furthest outing on that holiday took us just beyond the westernmost edge of Gloucestershire and across the Wye to Tintern abbey, and there I saw an unforgettable sight of another kind. The spaces between the piers of the surviving south nave arcade were filled with huge brick supports carrying the whole weight of the dangerously distorted clerestory wall above; the piers themselves had been removed, and in their places steel stanchions of special design were in various stages of erection prior to being carefully

encased in the original 13th-century moulded face stones, an operation performed so skilfully and sensitively that no one seeing that beautiful arcade as it stands today would ever suspect the radical surgery within that saved it from collapse in 1926.

That was the first time I saw the Office of Works Ancient Monuments Branch at work. When I was fortunate enough to join its staff nine years later it was to Wales that I was assigned, though I very nearly had an early assignment in Gloucestershire. The first Ancient Monuments Act of 1882, which was restricted to providing for the protection of 68 named prehistoric monuments in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, had included only one Gloucestershire antiquity in its schedule, namely Uley tumulus (or Hetty Pegler's Tump). Even by the time I came in in 1935 only two more, Belas Knap long barrow and Witcombe Roman villa, had been added to the sites in Office of Works guardianship, while the number of monuments scheduled under the 1913 Act still stood at less than 70. However, one further site was just in process of coming into care: in 1934-5 Mrs Clifford had re-excavated Notgrove long barrow, and in 1936 or thereabouts the transfer of Notgrove to the custody of the Office of Works was in train, and to my consternation I was told it would be my job to supervise the lay-out and conservation of the remains. Whether this would have done anything towards making a prehistorian of me I have every reason to doubt. However, contrary to scripture, salvation came from the east, for me if not for Notgrove, in the shape of an urgent requirement for someone to carry out a similar task at the lovely medieval remains at Minster Lovell in Oxfordshire and, as the BBC would say, to research and write a guide-book to them as well; and so, in the summer of 1937, instead of pitching my tent at Notgrove, I took my bicycle to France and cycled from Dieppe to Evreux to see what I could find in the Archives Départementales about the relations between the alien priory of Minster Lovell and its parent abbey of Ivry in Normandy.

The years immediately following the war saw a great upsurge of Ministry of Works involvement in the protection of Gloucestershire monuments through the drive and energy of Bryan O'Neil, who in 1946 succeeded J. P. Bushe-Fox as Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Bryan was my chief in the Office from the day I joined it until his death in 1954. He was one of two members of this Society to whose friendship 40 and more years ago I owe more than I can ever repay. The other was Canon Donald Keen of Gloucester, who came among you from the Navy a good deal later. I cannot refrain from mentioning both of them together tonight, and I would add that for me, your guest, it is a source of great gladness to see both Helen O'Neil and Elizabeth Keen here among our company this evening. In the late 1940s and early '50s many more sites were scheduled, and indeed it was at that time that the great bulk of the 460-odd monuments that are now so protected in what became O'Neil's adopted county were added to the List. Simultaneously the four prehistoric and Roman sites previously in Ministry of Works guardianship were joined by a like number of medieval monuments, with the addition of Kingswood abbey gatehouse, the war-damaged Temple church in this city, the surviving buildings of the Black Friars and the Grey Friars in Gloucester, and the abbey of Hailes and its museum, transferred to the Department's care by the National Trust. In the 1960s and '70s there have been added Odda's chapel at Deerhurst; the site of the Roman amphitheatre at Cirencester; an impressive stretch of Offa's Dyke on the Gloucestershire side of the Wye opposite Tintern; Telford's graceful Over bridge on the outskirts of Gloucester; and the Nympsfield long barrow. At the majority of these monuments works of repair and conservation have been undertaken, completed at some, still in progress at others. Looking to the future, I believe there is good reason to hope that St Mary's church at Kempsey, with its remarkable frescoes, will pass into the Department's care, and I think there is also some possibility of ways and means being found to overcome the difficulties which up till now have lain in the way of the Department accepting responsibility for the Woodchester pavement.

Should anyone wonder what that résumé of HMOW, MPBW and DOE (what's in a name?) activity in Gloucestershire has to do with the Centenary we are celebrating tonight, my answer would be that it illustrates the practical part played by my old branch of the government service in helping to realize one of the three principal objects this Society set before itself when drawing up its Rules in 1876, namely 'to promote . . . such an interest throughout the district in the monuments

of its past history as shall tend to counteract their present liability to inconsiderate and needless destruction'. And I would add that over the last 20 to 30 years there have been three other ways in which the state has been steadily and ever-increasingly helping the locality to pursue other aspects of the same objective: first the protection given by the Listed Building procedures embodied in the Town and Country Planning Acts; second, the grants given to help maintain and preserve privately owned buildings of outstanding architectural or historic interest under the provisions of the 1953 Historic Buildings Act, the scope of which is expected to be extended in the fairly near future to give aid to churches in use; and third, the financing, now enormously expanded, of so-called 'rescue' excavation, the archaeological investigation, record and publication, of sites being or about to be destroyed through unavoidable development or intensified cultivation. In this last field I would like to acknowledge the debt we all owe in particular to Helen O'Neil, who over many years from her Camp at Bourton on the Water has supervised and published a succession of 'rescue' digs on Cotswold sites.

What enormous changes have come about in our field of interest in this last, or let us rather say tonight this first, hundred years. Look at the Society itself. In 1876, out of a private membership of just over 500, ninety-and-nine, according to my counting of the flock, that is 20 per cent, were ordained clergymen of the Church of England; on the other hand only a sweet 17, or under 3½ per cent, belonged to the sex which we are now no longer allowed to discriminate; by 1973 that position was more or less reversed, and out of a private membership which then stood at 700 only 29, or 4 per cent, were clergy, whereas 95, or 13½ per cent, were, to use the 'in' word, Ms.

I think if you will allow me to be so bold, Madam President, it would be right and proper for me to make a very special mention this evening of the quite outstanding *feminine* contribution to the work and standing of the Society. I have spoken already of Mrs Clifford in connection with Notgrove; but on how many other sites has she worked and written, in the *Transactions* and elsewhere, and above all we shall always associate her name with Bagendon. We salute her, and wish she could be here this evening, and send her our most affectionate greetings and good wishes. I have already spoken of Mrs O'Neil, the personification of Bourton on the Water, of Salmonsbury and Whittington, and, I say it again, how glad we are to see her, safe and well after not one, but two, passages to India. How glad I am to see too, amongst the past-Presidents, Dr Margaret Sharp, whose brilliant address on Gloucestershire in the early 14th century, printed in the current *Transactions*, I was fortunate enough to read recently. She was in my mind early one Sunday morning only a few weeks ago, when I was in a train coasting down the eastern slope of the Jura towards Lausanne, and I could see in the distance the white shape of the castle of Chanipvent; thinking about this evening and about Bristol, I was reminded that it was in a writ to one of her constables of Bristol castle, Peter de la Mare, that I found Peter de Champvent mentioned as Chamberlain of the King's Household in 1284, which is eight years earlier than the earliest date given in her father's immortal *Chapters*. Again, what better augury could the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society have had for a triumphant centenary year than the gazetting in the New Year Honours of the name of Dr Joan Evans as a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire? Both our societies, the Bristol and Gloucestershire and the Antiquaries have cause to be profoundly grateful to Dame Joan for reigning over our affairs with great distinction and helping us on our way with signal generosity. How delightful it was to open the March number of *Antiquity* and see her pictured in her garden at Wotton under Edge receiving the Antiquaries' Gold Medal from the hands of John Cowen of Bisley! And how I am sure we all wish she were here this evening to receive our applause, as the medievalists among us would say, *in propria persona sua*.

Watching from the touchline as it must be to all those who play with the team, whether it be the Bristol team or the Gloucester team—which means all the members of the Society—no one has done more than you yourself have done, Madam President, to maintain and enhance the very high standing which the Bristol and Gloucestershire rightly has amongst the county archaeological societies of this country. A member for 35 years, a Trustee, Honorary General Secretary for 28 of those 35 years, long the custodian and interpreter of the archives and records of this great city, and

now so deservedly chosen to preside over the Society in this its Centenary year, your services are not outshone by those of any of your illustrious predecessors, and I do not forget that even to a stranger like myself this includes names like Roland Austin, W. H. Knowles, St Clair Baddeley, G. McN. Rushforth, and many another.

It is my privilege this evening not only to congratulate the Society on attaining its One Hundredth Birthday, and on all the good work it has done from its first beginnings until now, but also to wish it continuing fruitful achievement and prosperity in the future. We live in a topsy-turvy world and difficult times lie ahead. Such things as organizing excursions, and carrying on the regular publication of *Transactions* in return for a subscription which members of a fully representative age-spread can afford to pay, are going to present problems to which some of the answers may be neither easy nor palatable. But I believe that the phenomenon which lies at the root of all the activities in which we like-minded ones like taking part, namely man's capacity for being fascinated by the evidences of his own past, is something that is innate and will live on; and I believe that so long as there are persons willing to come forward and try and match, in the years of the future, the indefatigable devotion to the Society's interests that it has had the good fortune to receive from its present President, then the Society will surely continue to flourish.

And so may I now ask you all to rise and drink the Toast, 'Long life and health to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, coupled with the name of its President, Elizabeth Ralph'.

Speech of Patrick McGrath, M.A., Past-President of the Society, proposing the toast of 'The Guests' at the Centenary Dinner.

Madam President, My Lords and other guests of the Society, Ladies and Gentlemen. During its first hundred years, our Society has always managed to balance its books, but it has nevertheless accumulated many debts of a kind which do not appear in a balance sheet. This evening, at its Centenary Dinner, it acknowledges, in a symbolic way, some of those debts, by welcoming as guests a number of distinguished people who personify the friendship and support it has always received from the community of which it forms a part.

When the Society was founded in 1876, the term 'urban conurbation' had not yet defiled our language, and Avon was a river, not an administrative nightmare dreamed up by planners, but the ancient city and county of Bristol, and the even more ancient city of Gloucester, had more than a thousand years of history behind them, and it was entirely appropriate that the mayor of Bristol and the mayor of Gloucester should give their personal as well as their official blessing. The debt which the Society owes to the local authorities has accumulated over the years, and it is with pleasure and pride that we welcome tonight the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor H. J. Williams, and his Worship the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Peter Robins. We welcome them not only as the successors of two of our Founding Fathers, but as men who are personally concerned with the work we do. In earlier times, this Society was largely run by people who had a good deal of leisure. Nowadays, it seems to be very largely run by people like yourself, Madam President, who have no leisure at all, but nevertheless, it does provide for an ever-growing number of people valuable and interesting leisure activities, and it is appropriate that both our municipal guests should, among their many other duties, be very much concerned with Arts and Leisure Committees. Moreover, both of them have professional expertise which enables them to appreciate some of the problems which have faced this Society during its not always tranquil history. The lord mayor of Bristol as a transport expert will understand the agony that someone must have suffered when, on one of the Society's early excursions, more tickets were sold than the number of seats available in the horse-drawn carriages; and the mayor of Gloucester as a lawyer will be quick to note the menacing tone of a letter from five members stating that if the Society's library were established in Gloucester rather than in Bristol, this unconstitutional decision might result in 'litigation or provoke a schism, or both'. One suspects that the aggrieved members hoped it would be both.

The Society also has the honour to welcome the lady mayoress of Bristol and the mayoress of Gloucester. Mrs Williams and Mrs Robins may well feel that in the last hundred years the male attitude to women in public affairs has changed for the better. If our Founding Fathers did not make provision in the original constitution to prevent a lady being elected President, no doubt it was because they thought that the Society would never indulge in such an absurd piece of frivolity. Things have changed, but not in all respects for the better, and Mrs Williams and Mrs Robins may perhaps feel some regret that mayors no longer get married, as did the mayor of Gloucester in Beatrix Potter's immortal story, in coats of cherry-coloured silk embroidered with pansies and roses, and cream-coloured satin waistcoats trimmed with green worsted chenille, all sewn with tiny, tiny stitches by the mice whom the poor tailor of Gloucester had released from the captivity in which they were held by the wretched cat, Simpkin.

This evening, our guests include not a brace of bishops but a trinity. In 1876, of course, there were only two, because 40 years earlier a misguided Whig government had united the sees of Bristol and Gloucester, and had, moreover, decided that the bishop of the united see should be known as the bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, not the other way round. The see of Gloucester was, in fact, nine months older than the see of Bristol, so the benighted Whigs had perhaps some justification, but our Founding Fathers got their own back in 1876 and decided firmly that we should become the B and G, and not the G and B. In 1876 it was the bishop of Gloucester and Bristol who formally proposed that the Society should be founded, and bishop Clifford, the third bishop of Clifton, who moved the adoption of the rules. This was an interesting early example, if not of theological, at least of archaeological, ecumenism. Dualism, however, is, as their Lordships know, not a Good Thing, and in 1897 the sees of Gloucester and Bristol were once more separated, and the Trinity was officially recognized.

Of our three episcopal guests, the bishop of Bristol, Dr Tinsley, is a distinguished academic theologian. Among his many other activities, he has conducted study tours of the pilgrim routes to the shrine of St James in the wonderful city of Santiago de Compostela, a favourite shrine of medieval Bristolians and one to which my wife and I went not, I fear, on pilgrimage but on our honeymoon.

The bishop of Gloucester, Dr Yates, was drawn to the ministry while serving in the R.A.F. and has spent a great deal of time lecturing and teaching in theological colleges and working in parishes. He is a man of many interests, but when spring is all around us, he will not mind when I say that I particularly envy his well-known ability to fix lawnmowers, and I commiserate with him on the fact that his favourite football team, Scunthorpe United, like Bristol Rovers, does not occupy as high a place in its league as it undoubtedly deserves. I understand that his Lordship is concerned, rightly, lest the church should give too much attention to buildings at the expense of other things, but I am sure he will always hear with compassion the never-ending cry of archaeological societies, 'Bishop, spare that church'.

The eighth bishop of Clifton, Dr Mervyn Alban Alexander, studied at the English College in Rome to which many young men have gone from Gloucestershire since its foundation in the time of Elizabeth I, and his doctoral thesis was concerned with the heresies (if I may use that word) of two Englishmen, Thomas Walden and John Wycliffe. His cathedral is not quite as old as those of Gloucester and Bristol. Indeed, it must be the youngest cathedral in the world. It is not as yet a fitting subject for the archaeologist, but time is on its side.

We very much welcome as our guests tonight Mrs Tinsley, the wife of the bishop of Bristol, and Mrs Yates, the wife of the bishop of Gloucester. We cannot welcome the wife of the bishop of Clifton, because he has not got one, but reflecting on the changes we have seen in the ecclesiastical world and on the fact that recently Benedictine monks sang vespers in Latin in Westminster Abbey, we may perhaps wonder whether at our Bicentenary Dinner in a hundred years time, those who come after us may have the pleasure of welcoming not only three bishops but three bishops' wives.

The Society has always benefited greatly from the support given by the clergy, but another group from which it has drawn support is the academic world, and it is a great pleasure for the

Society to welcome tonight the vice-chancellor of the university of Bristol and Lady Merrison. Sir Alec is a man who is highly successful at telling bridges not to fall down, and more recently he had undertaken one of the labours of Hercules, not the cleansing of the Augean Stables but something rather like it—sorting out the National Health Service. He is by trade a scientist, in fact very appropriately a high-energy physicist, but we will not hold that against him because he is interested in the past, and to judge by one or two of his public utterances he is fascinated by the problem of who killed the princes in the Tower. Lady Merrison may not be able to answer that one and can always say, as professional historians do when faced with awkward questions, 'That is outside my period', but as an expert on the earlier middle ages, she can without hesitation assure him that 'King John was not a *good* man, he had his little ways; and sometimes no one spoke to him for days and days and days'.

Next it is a great pleasure to welcome The Man from the Ministry, Dr Arnold Joseph Taylor, Director of the famous Society of Antiquaries with which our Society has always had such close associations. A local society can do a lot to preserve the monuments of the past, but the national heritage can only be saved if governments will provide the finance, and above all, the expertise for so great an undertaking. Every local society is aware of what it owes to the old Ministry of Works and the new Department of the Environment, and to outstanding scholars like Dr Taylor, who first became an Assistant Inspector in 1935 and who from 1961 to 1972 was Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historical Buildings. We are indeed honoured that Dr Taylor should have agreed to be present tonight and to have proposed in such generous terms the toast of our Society.

Finally we welcome as guests two of our own members, Mr and Mrs Berkeley. The Berkeley family and the great castle of Berkeley have been part of the Gloucestershire landscape since the time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and the Berkeley family has always shown the greatest kindness to this Society. At the very first summer meeting in 1876 members went by special train to inspect the magnificent castle which, fortunately, Cromwell had only knocked about a bit, and thanks to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Berkeley one of our meetings in this centenary year will be in the castle. The Society owes much to such county families, rooted in the Gloucestershire countryside, and in spite of death duties and the like, we hope it will long continue to do so. Amending only very slightly the words of a great 17th century lawyer, Sir Randal Crew, let me conclude: 'Where is Bohun, where is Mowbray, where is Mortimer, nay, what is more and most of all, where is Plantagenet? They are entombed in the urns and sepulchres of mortality, and yet let the name and dignity of Berkeley endure so long as it pleaseth God.'

Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink the health of our distinguished guests.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 1977

The one hundredth and one Annual General Meeting was held in Bristol Cathedral on Saturday, 12 March 1977 at 2.15 p.m. The President, Miss Elizabeth Ralph was in the chair. There were 75 members present and apologies for absence were received from 21 members.

The members stood in remembrance of Mr F. G. Webb who had died in February 1977.

The President read the report of Council which was adopted. The Hon. Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts. In doing so he referred to the publication of the Centenary volume and paid a tribute to Mrs Frances Neale who had organized the sale of the surplus volumes with such energy and efficiency that £1,200 had been received from sales. The accounts showed a surplus of £793 on the year's working.

Mr Bernard Rawes, secretary to the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire reported on the establishment of the Committee (see p. 12).

The President proposed and the Very Reverend the Dean of Gloucester seconded the election of Mr Anthony A. Scott as an Honorary Member of the Society. The President then proposed the

election of Mr C. Roy Hudleston, M.A., F.S.A., as President for the year 1977–8. Miss Ralph spoke of Mr Hudleston's long association with the Society and of his service to the Society in the years before 1940 when he was Secretary for Bristol.

As the President had given her Presidential address at the Annual Meeting in 1976, Canon B. F. E. Clarke had been asked to address the meeting on 19th century architecture with particular reference to G. E. Street, but unfortunately he had suffered a heart attack.

In his place Mr T. H. B. Burrough, R.W.A., F.R.I.B.A., then read a paper on the building of the nave of the cathedral, completed in 1877, which is summarised below:

The choir of the Norman abbey church was rebuilt between 1298 and 1334 and the result is universally acknowledged an architectural masterpiece of its time, but the nave intended to match it was never built though it seems foundations were put in and in places walls built to sill height.

In the 1860s it was decided to complete the building. In the circumstances there was hardly need for an architect for, like Cologne cathedral, it would have been possible to proceed on the medieval plan, but the appointment of G. E. Street was a fortunate choice. Street had both a thorough knowledge of the Gothic idiom and an ability to handle space in architectural design so well seen in his work at the Law Courts in the Strand.

Street was scholarly and felt it entirely wrong to ape the medieval work; to quote from his report to the Building Committee in 1867, 'The object should be in fact to make the character of the work so distinct as to enable anyone hereafter at all versed in the matter to pronounce from the internal evidence of the work itself that it was not executed by the same men who built the choir' though he would wish to produce the effect of 'similarity at a distance'.¹

The vault, the capitals of the piers in the arcade, the window tracery, the tomb recesses in the nave, should be carefully compared with similar features in the choir to see how Street evolved his design complementing but not copying the choir and in the course of it producing a second masterpiece.

Mr Burrough concluded by remarking that we have thus in one building the work of a supreme scholar of one generation alongside that of a supreme genius of another, separated by no less than 550 years. Yet the result is an entity in which the personal tastes and predilections of two designers so different in historical setting are clearly recognizable but not in conflict.

Street's design for the western towers can be seen in a water colour in the Braikenridge Collection but after his death in 1881 it was altered by J. L. Pearson under whose supervision the work was completed in 1886.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1976

This year was an eventful one as the Society celebrated its 100th anniversary. Such an anniversary is no small event and the Council was determined that it should not pass unrecorded. Therefore, the occasion was marked by the publication of a special volume which contained a brief history of the Society and a collection of essays on the history of Bristol and Gloucestershire. In addition a number of meetings and social functions was held. The anniversary dinner held in April in the Council House, Bristol was attended by a large number of members and many distinguished guests. The excursions were concentrated on places in Bristol and Gloucestershire with which the Society had been particularly associated. In October, the Society visited Berkeley Castle where members were received by Mr and Mrs J. G. R. Berkeley and partook of a delightful supper in the great medieval hall. With the close of this memorable year, the Society looks forward with confidence to its next anniversary. Difficult times lie ahead with rising costs and many other problems, but one can hardly doubt that the need for this Society will be as great as ever, never wanting in men and women willing to serve it.

1. *The Ecclesiologist*, XXVII, 194–201; See also correspondence in *Building News*, XIV (1867).

This is perhaps reflected in the steady increase in the number of members. During the past year 73 members have joined the Society and the total membership is now 905. It is my hope that by 1978 we may have reached the 1,000 mark. This would mean that in 30 years we have doubled our membership. During the year we lost by death 6 members. Among them are two who did much to further the interests of the Society. For more than 50 years Mrs Elsie Clifford was a member and played an important part in the activities of the Society, having been President, Chairman of Council and Chairman of the Excavations and Buildings Committee. Her great contribution to archaeology was the encouragement and training she gave to many young archaeologists. A suitable obituary will appear in the *Transactions*. The sudden death of Mr F. G. Webb two weeks ago came as a great shock to many. A member for 26 years, he served on the Council of the Society and for many years was a most efficient Secretary for Bristol. His knowledge of local churches was probably unsurpassed. He was an excellent photographer. Others who died are Francis Peter, a member for 50 years, Sir Bernard Pratt (1950), A. J. Coker (1970) and Mrs Norman (1971).

One of the Society's greatest assets is its library in Gloucester. It is a matter of great regret that we shall lose the services of Mr V. Woodman due to his retirement in April. Although Mr Woodman has only been Honorary Librarian since 1973, he has in fact been associated with the Society's library for many years. The Council is grateful to him for his service and interest. The Council has decided to disband the small library which was housed in the City Museum at Bristol. For some years now, no new books have been added to it and the continuation of the series of record publications had long been discontinued because of lack of funds.

In addition to the Centenary volume which was issued last April, a further volume *An Ecclesiastical Miscellany* was published. This is the eleventh volume issued by the Record Section. The cost to members is only £2.50 and it is hoped that members will support the production of these publications. Volume 94 of the *Transactions* will be in your hands some time next month.

As I have already reported a number of successful meetings were arranged by the Meetings Secretary, the Secretary for Bristol and the Secretary for Gloucester. Reports of these will be published in the *Transactions*. Miss Dulcie Bailey who has been Meetings Secretary since 1970 has retired and we welcome Dr Basil Cottle as the new Meetings Secretary. The Council wish to place on record their appreciation and thanks for her service. Mrs Mary Campbell has kindly agreed to assist Dr Cottle.

The Society is very much concerned with the preservation of buildings of historic and architectural interest and the Council has spent much of its time in dealing with Listed Buildings Consents applications. The fact that the Society is represented on the Bristol and Cheltenham Conservation Advisory Committees and the Architectural and Conservation Area Advisory Panel of Kingswood and North Avon means that the Council has not to depend so much on the help and advice of members. I should like publicly to thank Mr T. H. Burrough for the tremendous amount of work which he does in this respect on our behalf.

The number of Public Enquiries being held appears to be increasing. This poses considerable problems for the Society in that there are so few members competent and able to represent us.

The Council is pleased to report that the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire is now established with Mr Christopher Bishop as chairman and Mr Bernard Rawes as secretary. The Society has delegated to it the task of co-ordinating the archaeological work done in the county, and has agreed to give the new committee financial backing.

The Society is also represented on the Gloucestershire Countryside Committee and has suggested to that body that more attention be given to field antiquities including the hill forts and defensive earthworks.

In conclusion, the Council is well aware that it is to the officers and Meetings Secretaries that the success of the Society is mainly due and it is a pleasing duty to express our real appreciation of all they do on our behalf. The Society is exceptionally fortunate to have their services and also a Council which meets regularly throughout the year to discuss and manage the affairs of the Society.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976 OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY
IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Following negotiations reaching back over a long period, the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire was established at a meeting at Gloucester City Museum on 3 May 1976. Mr Nicholas Thomas of Bristol Museum kindly took the chair, and there were representatives of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, the Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society and the Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Stroud and District Museums.

Four meetings were held between June and the end of the year, in Gloucester, Stroud and Cheltenham.

Relations have been established with C.R.A.A.G.S. and with the Council for the Gloucestershire Countryside, and numerous statutory authorities, independent organizations and individuals have been notified of the Committee's existence.

A copy of the card index sites and monuments record for the county, prepared by Mrs Rawes for G.A.D.A.R.G., has been placed in the local history collection at Cheltenham Library where it can be consulted by anyone interested. The Committee is taking steps to make this better known and to make the record still more comprehensive.

There has been a useful exchange of information between the various organizations represented, but the committee are perturbed that there are still large areas of the County where it is not represented and where excavations are taking place of which it has no knowledge.

Discussions have taken place with the Editor of the *Transactions*, and it is hoped that a brief review of sites will appear in future volumes. It is the intention thereby to include at least a short reference to all recent excavations in the County.

The future success of the Committee will depend on all interested organizations in the County taking an active part in its work, and on the authorities, organizations and people of Gloucestershire becoming aware of help which it can offer them.

FIELD MEETINGS, 1976

Because it was the Centenary Year of the Society, field meetings took a different form from usual. Visits were concentrated within the bounds of Bristol and Gloucestershire, and in many cases were to places which the Society visited in or about 1876, or to places with which it has had particularly close associations during the past hundred years. This special year was inaugurated with a Centenary Dinner held at the Council House, Bristol, in April, month of the Society's foundation. Among the 200 members and guests who attended were Lt-Colonel A. B. Lloyd-Baker, Mr C. Roy Hudleston and Mr I. V. Hall, who had attended the Society's 50th Annual Meeting, and others among our most recent recruits. A 'bill of fare' rich in local associations was followed by speeches. The Hon. Treasurer proposed the toast of the cities of Bristol and Gloucester, to which the Lord Mayor of Bristol replied. The toast of the Society was proposed by Dr A. J. Taylor, President of the Society of Antiquaries of London (pp. 111-15), with a reply by our President. Miss Elizabeth Ralph. A third toast to the guests, who included the Lord Mayor of Bristol, the Mayor of Gloucester, the Bishops of Bristol and Gloucester and the Bishop of Clifton, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol and Mr J. G. R. Berkeley, was proposed by Professor Patrick McGrath (pp. 115-17) and the reply given by Mr J. G. R. Berkeley.

The Spring Meeting was to Deerhurst and Tewkesbury, where the Society went on its first field meeting, in 1876. Then, Deerhurst Church and Odda's Chapel were described by Rev. G. Butterworth (*TBGAS* 1 (1876), pp. 96-104) and Tewkesbury Abbey, then as now under restorers' scaffolding, by Rev. J. H. Blunt. This year we were fortunate to have Mr A. Hannan and Dr Richard Morris as our guides to the important recent researches at both places. Mr Hannan Director of Tewkesbury Archaeological Unit, described the current project in 'total archaeology' at

Deerhurst church and parish, involving the stone-by-stone examination of the standing building as well as the application of modern excavation techniques to the lower levels. The results have led to a radical revision of many of the previous theories expressed in *TBGAS* by Butterworth and others, and a fascinating, three-dimensional reconstruction of the evolution, structure and functions of this most complicated building. The methodology of this remarkable work, led by Dr H. Taylor, Mr P. Rahtz and Dr L. Butler, is reported in the *Antiquaries Journal* 55 (1975), and the final publication is planned as a CBA Monograph. Mr Hannan also introduced us to the archaeology underlying the famous and picturesque surface of Tewkesbury, and the recent work of the Tewkesbury Archaeological Unit, pioneers in urban rescue archaeology. The party then enjoyed a tour of Tewkesbury Abbey under the stimulating guidance of Dr Morris, familiar to members as the author of 'Tewkesbury Abbey: the Despenser Mausoleum' in *TBGAS* 93 (1974).

The Summer Meeting of this centenary year was based on Gloucester and Bristol, and incorporated the Annual General Meeting, a splendid occasion held in the Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral and followed by Choral Evensong and a visit to the special centenary exhibition, 'Antiquarian Gloucestershire', at the Gloucester City Art Gallery. The next day, a tour of Bristol visiting buildings with which the Society has had previous associations was completed by the welcoming reception of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. Then followed two field-days in Gloucestershire, revisiting places which the Society had visited in its early years, or where the Society has played a part in excavation or restoration, as reported in past volumes of *TBGAS*: Cirencester, Chedworth and North Cerney, Hailes Abbey and Winchcombe Church, the important current excavations by Mr P. Dixon at Crickley Hill, and Prinknash Abbey.

The centenary Autumn Meeting took the form of a buffet supper at Berkeley Castle, closely associated with the Society ever since its first excursions in 1876, preceded by a tour of the castle itself. Here the President, Miss Ralph, aptly summed up the celebrations of this happy and successful year with her comment that they had opened with a dinner in one of the newest centres in the Society's area, and finished with supper in one of the oldest.

During the year the local sections of the Society were also busy marking the centenary with special meetings in their own areas. The Northern Section re-enacted two excursions by the Society in 1892, combining them, thanks to modern transport, into a most successful whole-day meeting to Little Compton church and manor house, Batsford Park, and the Broadway Tower. The Bristol Section toured Painswick under the able guidance of Mr B. J. Ashwell; were shown the Old Bristol Library; and visited a famous pair of Cotswold Long Barrows, Hetty Pegler's Tump and Nympsfield, with Mr L. V. Grinsell, followed by a tour of the beautifully restored Owlpen Manor. An extra autumn evening meeting was held at Westbury on Trym church and college, under the guidance of Bryan Little, to mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Bishop John Carpenter. Lectures at Bristol during the year started appropriately in the spring with Reece Winstone's illustrated description of 'Bristol 1876', followed by Nicholas Thomas on 'Avebury and the Maxi-Henges'. In the autumn, Peter Fowler looked ahead to 'Archaeology in 1984' and the centenary lecture season concluded, again with a difference, with 'An Hour of Bristol and Gloucestershire Music' performed by the Dorian String Quartet and the Euterpe Singers under the direction of Mr H. Byard, in the Bristol City Museum, followed by an agreeable social evening.

OBITUARIES

MRS E. M. CLIFFORD, O.B.E., F.S.A.

MRS E. M. CLIFFORD died on 3 September 1976 at her home in the village of Witcombe in her ninety-first year. Professor Glyn Daniel in his fine obituary printed in *The Times*, 7 September 1976, writes of her: 'She was the uncrowned queen of Gloucestershire archaeology and the doyenne of research into the long barrows of south-western Britain. If ever there was a justification for intelligent amateur archaeology it was in the life and work of Elsie Clifford.'

Elsie Clifford joined the Society in 1918. In 1930 she was elected a member of Council and became one of the most important influences in the life and activities of the Society for almost 40 years. She was the first woman Chairman of the Council and the first woman President of the Society. Over a period of forty years, Mrs Clifford carried out a number of important excavations in Gloucestershire which established her as a professional archaeologist of the highest competence. Her last excavation was at Bagendon and was published in 1961 when she was seventy-five.

At the memorial service in Gloucester Cathedral, the Very Revd Seiriol John Evans, Dean Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral and one of her close friends said: 'I expect most of us know something of what Elsie Clifford achieved during her long life. How, being the daughter of a farmer, her imagination was fired by the discovery of prehistoric remains in her father's fields, and how, from that beginning she established herself as an amateur archaeologist, and found the first palaeolith in Gloucestershire. In the 1920s Miles Burkitt in Cambridge spotted her as someone who might become a rising star in county archaeology and suggested that she should come to Cambridge to attend the lectures in the School of Archaeology which he was organizing. She returned to Gloucestershire and at once put her newly acquired expertise to work. As she grew older and her experience increased, she became a mentor to young archaeologists. These pupils became her friends whose fortunes and progress absorbed much of her interest over fifty years.

that its publication programme would not be hampered by the financial restrictions she had experienced when Editor. Typically she resented the granting of honours as a reward for services to charity.

All in all Joan Evans was a polymath of a type rarely found in the second half of the 20th century. Her life, influenced by her family traditions to which she was to some extent both hostage and guardian, has enhanced all those fields of activity in which she was interested. Her character was such that she had no need of any Discrimination Acts or Equal Opportunities Commissions to make her influence felt. She will always be remembered by those who know her and this Society is deeply indebted to her for her contribution to its affairs and her generosity.

H.G.M.L.

He was for many years a co-opted member of the Gloucester Museums and Arts Committee. Amongst his other great interests were the Three Choirs Festival (deputy-chairman), the British Legion and the Prisoners of War Relatives Association. Although twice badly wounded in the First World War, he was unsparing in his efforts for others, and there are very many of us who have cause to be grateful to his memory.

J.N.T.

DAME JOAN EVANS, D.B.E., D.LITT., D.LIT., LL.D., LITT.D., F.S.A., HON. A.R.I.B.A.

DAME JOAN EVANS died in her home at Wotton under Edge on 14 July 1977 at the age of 84 and with her passing this Society has lost its most distinguished member. She served as Editor of the *Transactions* from 1950 to 1959 and President in 1961. She was also Chairman of the Council from 1957 to 1959. Until the time of her death she maintained her interest and was always ready with advice and encouragement. It was a great disappointment to all, not least herself, that ill health prevented her attending the Centenary Meeting.

Dame Joan was brought up in and imbued with the liberal traditions of 19th century England. Her father, Sir John Evans, was both a successful industrialist and a scholar of the highest order. His work at John Dickinson & Co. created the basis of the family wealth; as an archaeologist he established the chronology of pre-history. Her half-brother, Sir Arthur Evans, was Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum and best remembered for his excavation of Knossos and the discovery of the Minoan civilization of Crete. Both Sir John Evans and Sir Arthur Evans, like Dame Joan herself, were Presidents of the Society of Antiquaries. The history of her family, *Time and Chance*, is one of the most delightful of her works.

She had a lonely childhood with a double generation gap between herself and most of her close relations. Academic life began when she became Librarian at St Hugh's College, Oxford, where she had been an undergraduate in the time of Miss Jourdain, one of the two lady dons who claimed to have been transported back in time to the world of Marie Antoinette when at Versailles one afternoon. A story Dame Joan would tell was of walking in the gardens at Versailles with Miss Jourdain shortly after the Great War when an ancient coach was sighted. Miss Jourdain immediately anticipated a further psychic experience but later they came across the horses being unharnessed and discovered its use was due to petrol shortage.

Dame Joan made medieval French art a particular area of study and published important books on it, especially in respect of the work of the Cluniac monastic order, but her interests were wide, extending through the 18th century. She also wrote with authority on Ruskin and was expert on antique jewellery, of which she had some beautiful examples from the Ancien Régime which she wore with distinction.

Her services to scholarship have been chronicled in detail elsewhere; suffice it to say that she was honoured as a Dame of the British Empire, by honorary degrees at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London and Edinburgh, was a trustee of the British Museum and was created a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for her services to French art.

Those who had privilege of her friendship quickly came to appreciate her warmth and generosity, but she could be a forbidding character with a directness of speech that strangers sometimes found disconcerting. Once at a Summer Meeting of the Society she took charge of proceedings in no uncertain manner when a vicar describing his church strayed from antiquarian to parochial matters.

She made certain that her personal fortune was put to good use and did not jealously guard to herself the privileges of wealth. Most often anonymously did she help persons, institutions and causes by gifts in kind or by an endowment of investments to ensure specific situations were safely funded. This Society was a beneficiary of her generosity and though the gift was originally anonymous it is generally known and should now be publicly recognized that Dame Joan provided the Society with an endowment, principally in Ordinary shares of the Dickinson Robinson Group, so

that its publication programme would not be hampered by the financial restrictions she had experienced when Editor. Typically she resented the granting of honours as a reward for services to charity.

All in all Joan Evans was a polymath of a type rarely found in the second half of the 20th century. Her life, influenced by her family traditions to which she was to some extent both hostage and guardian, has enhanced all those fields of activity in which she was interested. Her character was such that she had no need of any Discrimination Acts or Equal Opportunities Commissions to make her influence felt. She will always be remembered by those who know her and this Society is deeply indebted to her for her contribution to its affairs and her generosity.

H.G.M.L.

Index

- Alderley, 71
altars, 22, 37
Ampney, Down, 81
 St Mary, 84
archaeology, in Gloucestershire, 102-4
 of M5, 40-6
Ascott under Wychwood (Oxon.), 80
Ashchurch, 38
Ashton, Cold (Avon), 81
Asthall Leigh (Oxon.), 79, 80
Atwood, George, 90
Avening, 84
- Badgeworth, 35, 39, 75, 104
Baldwin, Samuel, 84
Barker, Susan, 'A Collection of Pilgrim Signs
and Other Badges in Bristol City Museum'
(*illus.*), 47-50
Barnsley, 102
Barnwood, 46
 Wells' Bridge Roman site, 24-39
Barrington, Little, 70, 79, 80
 barrows, 15, 113
Belas Knap long barrow, 113
Berkeley, 71, 74*n*, 81, 84
 Castle, 118
Berkeley family of Stoke Gifford, 96
Beverston, 74, 83
Bibury, 79, 80, 104
Bisley with Lypiatt, 37
Blaisdon, 81, 83
Bledington, 80
bone objects, 30
bones, 7, 9, 10
Bourton on the Water, 11-23, 73-4, 79, 80
 bronze age ring ditch, 15-17, 21
 cottage hospital, 20
 Salmonsbury, 11-23
Bourton Vale, geology, 17
Boxwell, 83
Brimpsfield, 36, 102
Brislington (Avon), 48
Bristol, cathedral, 118
 City Museum, 47-50
 Council, 89-90
 education, 86-92
 floating harbour, 47
 glass-makers, 98-101
 schools, 89-92
 streets, 101
 synagogue, 99
 Temple church, 50, 113
Bristol Record Office, accessions, 102
Broadwell, 71, 79, 80
Brockworth, 35, 75, 83, 102
bronze age, 15-17, 21
bronze objects, 22-3, 29, 30
Brookthorpe, 36, 71
Brough, William, 59
Bryan, family, 69, 71, 82-3
Buckland, 70-1
building material, 31
Bull, George, 65
Burford (Oxon.), 79, 80
burials, iron-age, 22-3
 Romano-British, 22-3, 25, 34-5, 37, 39,
 102-4
 Saxon, 22
Burrough, T. H. B., 118
- Cam, 46, 73, 83
Campden, Chipping, 84
Campden Lane, 15
cemetery, Romano-British, 23
Charlton, Dr Rice, 91
Chedworth, 73, 83
Cheltenham, 102, 104
Churcham, 81, 83
Churchdown, 5-10, 39
 geology, 5
 prehistoric occupation, 5-10
Cirencester, 72, 84, 104, 113
Clifford, Mrs E. M., 121
clothiers, 78-80
coal-mining, Forest of Dean, 82
Coaley, 38, 46, 75
Cobbe, Richard, 90
coins, 23, 30, 37
Collins, Thomas, 91
Combe, Richard, 91
Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire,
 119-20
Compton Abdale, 70
cordwainers' guild, 48, 50
Cotswolds, prehistoric sites, 11, 12
 forests, 12, 14
 geology, 12, 14
Cowley, 35, 60, 74, 103
Cranham, 38, 103
Cricklade, (Wilts.), 80

- Cudworth, Dr Ralph, 62-3
 Curteys, William, 53
- Daglingworth, 73, 83
 Daylesford, 71
 Dean, Forest of, 68, 71, 82
 Deerhurst, 34, 39, 103, 112, 120
 church, 103, 120-1
 Odda's chapel, 112-13, 120
 Dikler, river, 18
 Dobunni, Belgic, 20
 Dowdeswell, 74
 Dumbleton, 73, 84, 103
 Dymock, 74ⁿ
- Eastington, 37, 46
 Eastleach St Martin, 80
 Edkins, Michael, 98-9
 education in Bristol and Gloucestershire, 86-97
 Edwardes, John, 53
 Elberton (Avon), 83
 Elliott, W. R., 'Chest-tombs and 'tea-caddies'
 by Cotswold and Severn' (*illus.*), 68-84
 Elmore, 74-5, 83-4
 Elton, Abraham, 91
 Evans, Dame Joan, 123
 Evans, S. and Eward, S., 'Dr. Abraham
 Gregory, a Seventeenth-Century Prebend
 of Gloucester Cathedral', 59-67
 Evenlode, 71
 Eward, S., *see* Evans, S.
 excavations, 11, 19, 31-4, 103-4
 Eyne, Robert, 91
- Fairford, 70, 72, 79-80
 Falfield, 46
 flints, 40-1, 103
 Forbes, James, 63
 forest, in the Cotswolds, 12, 14
 Fowler, Edward, 61-4
 Fowler, P. J., 'Archaeology and the M5 Motor-
 way Gloucestershire 1969-75' 40-6
 Foy, Thomas, 89
 Frampton, Robert, 62, 64
 Frampton on Severn, 37, 75
 Fretherne with Saul, 103
 Frocester, 38, 46, 103
 Fry, Thomas, 91
 Fulbrook (Oxon.), 79, 80
 Fullbrook-Leggatt, L. E. W. O., 122
 geology, 5, 12, 14, 17, 124
 glass, 30, 98-100
 glass-making in Bristol, 98-101
 Gloucester, 36, 39, 84
- Black Friars, 103, 113
 cathedral, 61-5
 College School, 59, 66, 93
 excavations, 103
 Grey Friars, 113
 Hare Lane, 66
 Little Cloister House, 60, 63, 66
 Portcullis inn, 66
 Roman sites, 32-9
 Unitarian chapel, 63
- Gloucestershire, education, 86-8, 92-7
 lowlands, settlement, 41-2
 Gloucestershire Record Office, accessions, 106
 Golde, Thomas, 52
 Goldwin, Rev. W., 89
 Gotherington, 103
 grammar schools, 92-3
 gravel pits, 20, 37, 108
 Gray, I., 108
 Greenaway family, 89
 Gregory, Dr Abraham, 59-67
 family, 59, 65-6
 Guiting Power, 83
 Temple, 73, 83, 103
- Hailes abbey, 113
 Hamlett, John, 75, 84
 Hardwicke, 37, 75
 Harescombe, 36, 73-4, 83
 Haresfield, 36-7, 46, 74, 83-4
 Hatherley, Down, 34, 103
 Hawkins, Sir John, 88
 Hawkyard, A. D. K., 'Thornbury Castle' (*illus.*),
 51-8
 Hawling, 74, 83
 Hazleton, 70
 Helier, Dr Henry, 91
 Hempsted, 35
 Herbert, N. M. (ed.), *A History of the County
 of Gloucester* vol. XI, 108
 Highnam, 103
 Hodges, Nathaniel, 62-3
 Hodgson, Eric, *A History of Tetbury*, 109
 Holman, J. R., 'Some Aspects of Higher Edu-
 cation in Bristol and Gloucestershire, c.
 1650-1750', 86-97
 Horsbere brook, 24-6
 Hucclecote, 35
 Huntley, 81, 83
 Hurst, Henry, 'The Prehistoric Occupation on
 Churchdown Hill' (*illus.*), 5-10
- Icomb, 103
 inns of court, 86-8, 96
 iron age, 23

- burials, 22-3
 sites, 10, 25, 103-4
 iron industry, Forest of Dean, 82
 iron objects, 30
- Jacobs family, 98-101
 Jane, William, 60
 Jeffries, Stephen, 64-5
 Jordan, John, 79
 Josephs, Z., 'The Jacobs of Bristol,
 Glassmakers to King George III', 98-101
 Jurassic way, 14, 15, 17
- Kempe, Margery, 48
 Kempley church, 113
 Kempford, 80
 Kempster, John, 80
 Keynsham Abbey, 51
 Kingscote, 73, 83, 103
 Kingswood, 71
 Abbey, 113
- Lechlade, 80, 104
 Leigh, 34
 Leighterton, 73-4
 Lewis, Sir William, 88
 Longford, 35
 Longlevens, 38
 Lydney, 103-4
- M5, archaeology, 40-6
 M5 Research Committee, 40-6
 McGrath, Patrick, 115
 Marcy, P. T., 86
 Marshall, Thomas, 60
 Marshfield, 81
 Massey, John, 91
 medieval, manor house, 38
see also pottery
 Mickleton, 84
 mill sites, 104
 Minchinhampton, 74ⁿ, 84
 Minster Lovell (Oxon.), 113
 Minsterworth, 83
 Miserden, 37, 74ⁿ, 84, 103
 monuments, *see*, tombs
 Moore, Dr John, 18
 More, Henry, 62
 mosaics, *see* Romano-British
- nails, 30
 Nelson, J. P., *Chipping Campden*, 109
 neolithic site, 15
 Newent, 104
 Northleach, 72
- North Leigh (Oxon.), 80
 Norton, 34, 38
 Norton, Chipping, (Oxon.), 78-80
 Notgrove long barrow, 113
 Nympsfield, 74ⁿ, 103
- Offa's Dyke, 113
 Oldbury on Severn (Avon), 81
 O'Neil, H. E., 'Salmonsbury, Bourton on the
 Water' (illus.), 11-23
 Orme, N., 110
Education in the West of England 1066-1548,
 109
 Over bridge, 113
 Owlpen, 74ⁿ
 Ozleworth, 74, 83
- Painswick, 36-7, 74, 82-5
 Pearce family, 75, 81
 Percival, Dr Alicia, 86, 92-3
 pilgrim signs, 47-50
 Pitchcombe, 74ⁿ
 place-names, 41
 population, 82, 93-4
 pottery, 7, 9, 10, 23
 coarse, 27-9
 medieval, 40-2
 post-medieval, 40, 42
 Roman, 20, 23, 26, 103
 Romano-British, 34-40, 42
 Samian ware, 26-7
- Poulton, 80
 Poyntz family, 96
 prehistoric, earthwork, 11-15
 occupation, 5-10, 103
 routes, 14, 15
- Quedgeley, 39, 74ⁿ
 Quenington, 73, 80
- Ralph, Miss E., 109
 Randwick, 75
 Rawes, Mrs. B., 102
 Bernard, 'A Roman Site at Wells' Bridge
 Barnwood' (illus.), 24-39
 Rede, William, 53
 Reeve, Francis, 84
 Reidy, John (ed.), *Thomas Norton, the Ordinal
 of Alchemy*, 110
 Rendcomb, 83
 Rhodes, J. F., 9-10
 Ricketts, John, 84
 Rissington, Wick, 79, 80
 river names, 18
 Roberts, Dr Richard, 91
 Rodborough, 38-9

- Roman, altar, 37
 brooches, 23
see also pottery
 quarry, 102
 sites, 20, 24-39, 41, 102-4
- Romano-British, cemetery, 22
 mosaics, 36
see also pottery
 settlement, 18
see also villas
- Salmonsbury, 11-23
 hundred, 18
 stone, 18, 19, 22
- Salperton, 74
- Salter, Walter, 53
- Salvin, Anthony, 53
- Samson, Giles, 84
- Sandhurst, 34
- Saxon burial, 22
- Say, John, 53
- Sevenhampton, 73-4, 83
- Sherborne, 103
- Shipton under Wychwood (Oxon.), 79, 80
- Siddington, 74ⁿ
- Slaughter hundred, 18
 Lower, 79, 80
- Slimbridge, 46, 73, 83
- Smith, James, 53
- Snagge, Anne, 89
- Snowhill, 71
- Sodbury, Old (Avon), 74ⁿ
- Southam, 103
- Southrop, 80
- Southwell family, 96
- Stafford, Edward, Duke of
 Buckingham, 51-4, 57
- Standish, 37, 74, 76, 83-5
- Standlake, (Oxon.), 80
- Stanley, King's, 38, 103
- Stanton, 73, 83
- Staverton, 34
- Stinchcombe, 46
- Stoke Orchard, 34, 46
- stone objects, 26, 40
- Stonehouse, 74-5, 83
- stonemasons, 74-5, 80-5
- Stow on the Wold, 79, 80
- Street, G. E., 118
- Strong, Valentine, 80
- Stroud, 38, 75, 84
- Swell, 103
- Swinbrook, 79, 80
- Syde, 103
- Taylor, Dr Arnold, 111-15
- teeth, animals', 17
- Tetbury, 74, 83
- Tewkesbury, 34, 38, 103, 120-1
 abbey, 120-1
- Thornbury (Avon), 46, 51-8, 71, 81
 castle, 51-8
 manorial accounts, 51-2
- Tibberton, 84
- Tidenham, 103
- Tintern Abbey (Gwent), 113
- tombs, 68-84
- Tortworth, 46
- Townsend, George, 95
- trackways, 14, 15, 17, 23
- Tudor, Jasper, 51-2
- Tyler, John, 64
- Tyther, Emma, 66
- Tytherington (Avon), 46
- Uley, 74ⁿ, 103-4
 Hetty Pegler's Tump, 113
- Upton St Leonards, 35, 38, 71, 74, 83-4, 104
- villas, Romano-British, 34-8, 102-4
- Vyner, Thomas, 60
- Walton Cardiff, 46
- Washbourn family, 62-3
- weavers' guild, 48, 50
- Wells family, 124
- Welstead, Dr Robert, 91
- Weston Subedge, 104
- Westwell (Oxon.), 79, 80
- White, George, 89
 Sir Thomas, 89
- Whitminster, 37, 104
- Whitson, John, 89
- Wickwar, 71
- Wilcocks, Dr Joseph, 90
- Willersey, 71
- Winchcombe, 104
- Windrush, 79, 80
 river, 18
- Witcombe, 35-6, 39, 113
- Withington, 74ⁿ
- Witney (Oxon.), 78, 80
- Woodchester, 38, 71, 84, 104, 113
- Woodman, V. A., 109
- Woodward family, 84
- woolmen, 78-80
- Wotton, Thomas, 53, 58
- Wychwood (Oxon), 78
- Yanworth, 79, 80
- Yate (Avon), 73-4, 83
- Yeaman family, 89

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Orders for any of these should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 9 Pembroke Road, Bristol BS8 3AU. In all cases postage will be charged in addition.

Reviews

A History of the County of Gloucester, Volume XI, edited by N. M. Herbert (Victoria History of the Counties of England, published for the Institute of Historical Research by the Oxford University Press, 1976), 339 pp., 48 illustrations, 11 maps and plans. £30.

This, the fourth Victoria History volume for Gloucestershire (apart from the 'general' volume published in 1907) is the first of which Dr Herbert has been sole editor, and it does him credit. Inflation has lifted the price of a volume from seven guineas in 1965 to £30 in 1976, but we must just grin and bear it if the high standard of research, editing and printing is to be maintained. All our future local historians will look to this great work for their basic facts and for guidance to sources.

The Hundreds dealt with this time are Bisley and Longtree, together a large slice of the south-western Cotswolds. For centuries cloth was the life-blood of the area, until all but the luxury trade migrated to the power-looms of Yorkshire, leaving the Gloucestershire weavers in sore distress in the early 19th century. Before this, Stroud and Nailsworth had become the main centres of the industry. Stroud, formerly a mere hamlet of Bisley, grew thanks to a good water supply for dyeing and good communications which latterly included the canals. Nailsworth actually did not become a parish until 1892, created from parts of Minchinhampton, Avening and Horsley. The ancient market towns were Painswick, now showing expansion and 'gentrification' but cherished by its residents; Minchinhampton, once owned by the *myncen* or nuns of Caen Abbey in Normandy; and Tetbury, an unspoilt Cotswold town.

In the valleys of Frome and its tributaries, the clothiers, many of whom succeeded in becoming gentlemen in the proverbial three generations, built themselves handsome stone houses and fine mills, many of which still stand, preserved by conversion to a variety of light industries which have restored former prosperity to the Golden Valley. Much space is devoted to their history here, and a number are illustrated by excellent photographs.

Long ago these Cotswold valleys attracted Romanized British landowners and farmers. No doubt we shall eventually have a V.C.H. Volume II including an account of Romano-British Gloucestershire, but meanwhile something more than a perfunctory mention of villas and settlements would be welcome. Even the palatial mansion at Woodchester (possibly the country-house of the sub-provincial governor), with the largest and most celebrated mosaic in Britain, is but 'a substantial villa' with a 'large mosaic pavement'. The Ifold villa in Painswick, excavated by St Clair Baddeley, is not mentioned, nor are the important finds of Roman altars, etc., in Bisley. The index has only five references to 'Roman remains'.

The period of gestation for a V.C.H. volume is approximately four years, not unreasonable considering all the work that goes into it and the inevitable delays in publication. While we wait eagerly for more, a useful addition to future volumes would be a plan, or at least a list, showing the Hundreds already covered and those which remain to be done.

IRVINE GRAY

Nicholas Orme, *Education in the West of England 1066-1548* (University of Exeter, 1976), 239 pp. + 7 maps.

The publisher's blurb tells us that Dr Orme's study of education in the West of England casts new light on the history of the Church and of lay society in the Middle Ages and that medieval people emerge as far more involved with education and learning than was generally thought, and it is true. The author has already written a scholarly book on English schools in the Middle Ages which might well be read in conjunction with this book although the book itself has an admirable introduction to the subject. Here Dr Orme gives a detailed account of the 120 known schools that were in being before the close of the Middle Ages in the six counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. This is a book which has been painstakingly researched and in spite of its detail is thoroughly readable. It is well documented with good bibliographies and useful maps showing the distribution of the schools. A much needed work which will be of considerable interest and help to the local historians.

E. RALPH

J. P. Nelson, *Chipping Campden: some aspects of the Past and Present of a North Cotswold Country Town and its surrounding districts*, privately printed, 1975.

Eric Hodgson, *A History of Tetbury*, Alan Sutton, Dursley, 1976.

The two volumes here reviewed are typical examples of a rapidly developing class of local history publication, written by gifted amateurs with time to delve and 'stand and stare'. Not least are they important for their recording of oral traditions and minutiae sometimes undiscovered or ignored by professional historians.

Mr Nelson gives a highly personalized account of his researches on Chipping Campden. One perhaps is left with the impression that being socially well-connected has great advantages to the local history writer, but this may be an accident of the locality. Much of the book is devoted to the Cotterell family, members of which had been stewards of local manors. Their family papers were somewhat dramatically discovered among Campden Society archives in 1972. As well as correspondence, manorial records, tithes, communications, and enclosure are covered, with lengthy extracts from primary sources. Genealogies of the great local families are given, and descriptions of fine local buildings. The book is copiously illustrated with pleasing plates from the author's own hand, proving him to be an artist of no mean stature.

It would be carping to criticize unduly what has so obviously been a labour of love. However, the author does seem too frequently and easily to have admitted defeat in some lines of research, and to have introduced too readily matters extraneous to his subject, interesting though they are.

In committing pen to paper in the shape of a full length history of Tetbury, Mr Hodgson shows great courage after only five years of residence. The Tetbury Civic Society, on whose behalf he undertook the task, must be grateful for his effort. As the writer himself admits, however, he could hardly have chosen a small town to write about so well documented in its history. Unlike Mr Nelson's book, which ranges far and wide over the surrounding countryside, this volume deals almost exclusively with the township of Tetbury from many aspects. In particular, town government in the shape of 'Thirteen' and the Feoffees is given full treatment. The 32 plates have been carefully chosen, and well convey the character of the town.

Since this volume is presented as a commercial publication, it must bear some criticism. There are several spelling mistakes: In the Domesday extract on p. 12—'hordarers' for 'bordarers'; p. 37 'lightening' for lightning'; p. 105 'that is to day' for 'that is to say'; p. 128 'Jane Austin' for 'Austen'.

The index is made to appear rather strange in places by inverted phrases, e.g. chest, parish; registers, parish; pound, old Horse; and a mixture of dual and cross-references.

The final chapter of walks about Tetbury should prove useful to the visitor.

V. A. WOODMAN

Thomas Norton, *The Ordinal of Alchemy*, ed. John Reidy, lxxv + 125 pages, London, Early English Text Society, no. 272, 1975, £3.

This treatise on alchemy in English verse was written by a prosperous Bristol esquire, who began the work in 1477. It is therefore an important piece of evidence about the cultural life of Bristol in the 15th century. This, the first modern edition, includes an account of the author's life and scientific knowledge, as well as providing a good text and glossary.

N. ORME

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

This section is designed to draw attention to publications during the year which make a contribution to the study of the archaeology and history of the County. The list is neither intended nor expected to be exhaustive, but it is hoped that societies, museums and individuals responsible for any such publication, whether guide, article or full-length study, will contact David Viner at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, as soon as their work appears in print, to ensure its inclusion. Publications included in the Reviews Section are not noticed here.

- Beecham, R. 1976. *Cheltenham As It Was*. Hendon Publishing Company, Nelson. 40 pp + 51 plates. £1.30. Victorian and Edwardian photographs from the local collection.
- Belcher, R. M. 1976. *Autobiography of Richard Boswell Belcher and the Riot of Blockley in 1878*. Ed. and annotated by Blockley Antiquarian Society. 38 pp. 40p. A local record in booklet form, including a famous event in Blockley's history.
- Branigan, K. and Fowler, P. J. (eds.) 1976. *The Roman West Country*. David & Charles, Newton Abbot. 246 pp. + 33 plates and 46 figures. £7.95. Eleven essays plus four useful appendices summarizing the results of research and excavation up to 1973.
- Butler, L. A. S., Rahtz, P. A. and Taylor, H. M. 1975. 'Deerhurst 1971-74'. *Antiq. Jl.* LV, 346-365. Soc. of Antiq. research project on the archaeology of the English Church.
- Chatwin, A. (ed.) 1975. *Journal of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology*, 89 pp. Includes a history of papermaking in and around Winchcombe.
- Crosher, G. R. 1976. *Along the Cotswold Ways*. Cassell, London. 197 pp. + 33 plates. £4.50. One of a series on historic routes and trackways.
- Greene, K. T. 1975. 'The Romano-Celtic Head from the Bon Marche site, Gloucester: A Re-appraisal', *Antiq. Jl.* LV, 338-345.
- Hadfield, C. and A. M. 1976. *Introducing the Cotswolds*. David & Charles, Newton Abbot. 185 pp. + 24 plates. £3.95. A series of eight car tours for visitors.
- Hurst, H. 1975. 'Excavations at Gloucester: Third Interim Report: Kingsholm 1966-75'. *Antiq. Jnl.* LV, 267-294.
- Jennings, R. W. 1976. *The Cotswolds in the Civil War*. Corinium Museum, Cirencester. 16 pp. 60p. An illustrated examination of a turbulent episode in the local context.
- McWhirr, A. D. (ed.) 1976. *Studies in the Archaeology and History of Cirencester*. British Archaeological Reports, Oxford, No. 30. 200 pp. + 50 figures and plates. £3.90. Fourteen essays on aspects of the town's history, especially of the abbey and medieval town.
- Moore, J. S. (ed.) 1976. *The Goods and Chattels of our Forefathers*. Phillimore, Chichester. 320 pp. £6.50. Probate Inventories of Frampton Cotterell and District 1539-1790.
- Rahtz, P. A. 1976. *Excavations at St. Mary's Church, Deerhurst, 1971-3*. Council for British Archaeology Research Report No. 15. 59 pp. + 15 plates. £4.00. Results of the examination around the east end of the Church. Part of a wider programme of research.
- Renfrew, A. C. 1976. *Bourton-on-the-Water Roman Settlement*. Privately printed. 40 pp. + 19 plates. £2.00. Excavations of an area near Bourton Bridge.
- Robertson, D. 1974. *The King's School, Gloucester*. Phillimore, Chichester. 232 pp. + 24 plates. £5.25. Definitive history of an educational tradition over 900 years old.