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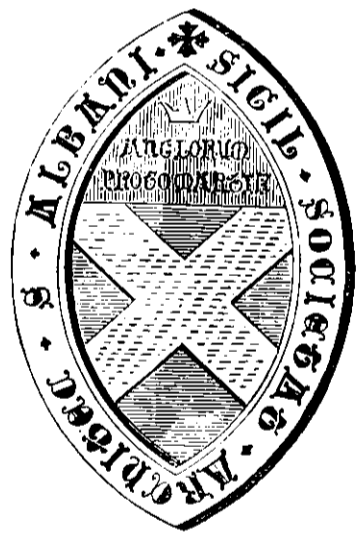
St. Albans Architectural

AND

Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS

1889.



St. Albans:

PRINTED BY GIBBS AND BAMFORTH, MARKET PLACE.

1891.

St. Albans Architectural Society,

FOUNDED 1845.

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Architectural and Archæological
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PROCEEDINGS.

Excursion and Annual Meeting, August 1st, 1889.

An Archæological Excursion was conducted by the Secretaries in accordance with a programme arranged by the Committee. Members, to the number of about forty, assembled in Wheathampstead Church (S. Helen's) at 10.15 a.m. The Rev. Canon Davys received the party, and read a paper on the "History of the Structure and of the Parish," illustrating by plans and drawings, which he had prepared, also exhibiting a model of the spire. The party then proceeded in carriages to Mackery End, visiting on the way the Castle Farm. Mr. R. L. Howard conducted the visitors over his house, illustrating its history by means of plans and notes. An historical note was also read by the Rev. H. Fowler. The "Queen Anne" staircase, carved oak chimney pieces, and other features were inspected with much interest. The excursionists proceeded along the valley of the Lea to Cold Harbour. Here, on a balk in the open fields, the Rev. Dr. Griffith gave an address on the "Ancient Common Field Tillage," pointing out the vestiges of the system existing on the spot. A pleasant drive of three miles brought the party to Someries Castle about two o'clock. Here, on the earthworks, a picnic lunch was partaken of; also the annual meeting was held, Mr. G. Upton Robins presiding.

The Rev. H. Fowler read a paper on the ancient associations of the locality and the castle, also notes on the ruined remains of the mansion, erected by John, Lord Wenlock; he also exhibited plans. After inspecting the interesting ruins, the party drove to Luton.

At four o'clock Mr. S. Flint Clarkson read in the parish church (S. Mary's) a paper on its architectural history, illustrating the remarkable baptistery by photographs of examples remaining in other churches. The old registers, church plate, and detached brasses were inspected by the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. J. O'Neill. In the Wenlock Chapel Mr. Fowler gave

some notes on the tomb of Canon William de Wenlock, and read extracts from his will. Other features of this noble church were inspected as far as the time permitted. On returning to Wheathampstead the company were hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Upton Robins. The weather being delightful, the long day's excursion was greatly enjoyed.

Annual Meeting held at Someries Castle, August 1st, 1889.

Present :—Mr. G. Upton Robins, presiding ; the two Hon. Secretaries ; the Rev. Dr. Griffith, Mr. S. F. Clarkson, and others.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed. The audited balance sheet was passed. The officers of the Society and retiring members of the Committee were re-elected.

The Rev. E. R. Gardiner was elected an Honorary Member.

Henry Hucks Gibbs, Esq., F.S.A., of Aldenham House, was elected a Vice-President.

The following were elected Ordinary Members :—The Rev. E. C. Ince, S. Albans ; H. E. C. Rokeby Price, Esq., S. Albans ; Mrs. G. Oakley, Lawrence End, Luton ; Mrs. Quincey Lane, Berkhamstead ; L. Wishart Robinson, Esq., Hemel Hempstead ; Mrs. Gotto, Newhouse Park, S. Albans ; Rev. W. P. Pearce, Ayot S. Lawrence ; Rev. C. M. O. Parkinson, Radlett ; H. S. Price, Esq., Gustard Wood ; Morton M. Glover, Esq., S. Albans ; H. J. Salisbury, Esq., S. Albans.

Oct. 30th, 1889.

J. GRIFFITH, Chairman.

. A Resolution adopted on the motion of Mr. F. K. Tarte was subsequently cancelled.—See Minutes of Meeting, Oct. 30th.

Excursion, September 13th, 1889.

An Excursion towards the eastern part of the county, as arranged, was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Griffith and Mr. F. W. Kinneir Tarte. A party of members and friends assembled at Hertford Old Cross at 12.30, and were met by Mr. H. R. Gosselin and Mr. R. T. Andrews. The latter pointed out the spot where some remains of the ancient church of S. Mary (the Great) were discovered in the walls of a cellar, when excavations were made for the erection of the Public Library,

March, 1888. The approximate limits of the churchyard were described and a plan exhibited. The moulded stones were afterwards viewed in the Corporation yard, where Mr. Andrews gave a short summary of his investigations, and exhibited some sections which he had prepared. A vote of thanks was accorded, and the hope expressed that Mr. Andrews would read a fuller account at an evening meeting. The party proceeded by train to the Rye House, where lunch was partaken of. The Castle gatehouse was then visited under the guidance of Dr. Griffith, who read notes on the history of the locality, and on the traditions of the "Great Bed of Ware," which was afterwards inspected. The collection of curiosities in the hall above the gateway was shown by the attendant. The visitors were driven to Nether Hall, in the parish of Roydon, where they were received by Mr. Houblon, the owner, and Mr. Wentworth Huyshe. The latter read a paper on the ruined remains of the mansion, erected by the Colt family, c. 1471, pointing out the resemblance of this fine example of early brick architecture to "Someries Castle." Some rubbings of brass memorials of the "Colts" were exhibited. The gatehouse and moated precinct were afterwards inspected. After recording their thanks to Mr. Huyshe, the party proceeded to Broxbourne, and were received at the church (S. Augustine's) by the Rev. J. Salwey. Mr. Kinneir Tarte read a paper on the architectural history of the structure, afterwards describing in detail its features, monuments, and furniture. The "Say" Chapel, priest's chambers, the tombs, and brasses were inspected and explained, also the church plate and old parish registers. Tea was provided at a rural inn. The cordial thanks of the party were tendered to Mr. K. Tarte for his paper and kind services in arranging an expedition which had proved exceedingly interesting. The S. Albans members reached their destination about 8 o'clock p.m.

General Meeting held in the Town Hall, S. Albans,
October 30th, 1889.

Present:—The Rev. J. Griffith, LL.D., in the chair; the two Hon. Secretaries; H. J. Toulmin, Esq., G. Mowat, Esq., the Rev. E. J. Edwards, E. N. Wix, Esq., F. W. Silvester, Esq.

The local Secretary reported the gifts of Mr. Toulmin, viz., moulded stones from the Abbey Orchard excavations; 2 folio volumes, "Returns of the Owners of Land, 1873"; 8 numbers of the "Proceedings of the Royal Institute of British Architects"; also the gift of Dr. Evans, F.S.A., vice-president, viz., Transcript of a "Grant of the Manor of Studham, dated 1558."

The thanks of the Meeting were accorded to the donors.

The following were elected Ordinary Members:— Harry Oliver, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., and Andrew Oliver, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., 5, Queen's Gardens, Bayswater, proposed by Mr. F. Silvester; F. G. Kitton, Esq., St. Albans, proposed by Mr. F. Silvester; Rev. H. E. Jones, Knebworth Rectory, and Rev. P. H. W. Peach, Vicarage, Elstree, proposed by Rev. Dr. Griffith; Miss Hemming, S. Albans, proposed by Rev. H. Fowler; E. Maynard W. Goslett, Esq., Marlborough House, S. Albans, proposed by Rev. H. Fowler.

The minutes of the Excursion Meeting of August 1st were read.

The Rev. Canon Davys reported a resolution of the Committee recommending that the minute relating to the appointment of a Sub-Committee be not confirmed.

Mr. Toulmin seconded the recommendation.

The Rev. E. J. Edwards pointed out that the minute contravened Rule 19.

After discussion, it was resolved that the resolution moved at the Meeting, August 1st, being without previous notice, be not confirmed.

The minute was accordingly cancelled.

The minutes of the Excursion Meeting of August 1st were then confirmed, with the exception above.

A report of the Excursion of Sept. 13th was read.

The Rev. Canon Davys announced the resolution of the Committee that the supplementary meetings next year be limited to one evening meeting and one excursion.

The thanks of the Meeting were given to the Chairman.

July 29th, 1890.

JOHN GRIFFITH.

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, S. Albans,
7.45 p.m., December 5th, 1889.

Present:—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, in the chair; the Mayor of S. Albans (H. J. Toulmin, Esq.); the Rev. Dr. Griffith, Rev. H. Fowler, Mr. S. F. Clarkson, Mr. F. Kinneir Tarte, Mr. R. T. Andrews, and other members and friends.

The Chairman announced presents to the Society:—viz, a lithograph of the Brass of Roger Thornton, Newcastle, from Andrew Oliver, Esq.; two volumes of “Notes and Queries,” Series, 1887, from Mrs. Masters.

The thanks of the Meeting were accorded to the donors.

The Rev. H. Fowler read a paper on the “Sites of Monastic Buildings recently excavated in the Abbey Orchard Field.” He illustrated the subject by a plan he had prepared, and by the Society’s map of the Monastery.

Mr. Clarkson read notes on the “Moulded Stones,” discovered in the excavations, and presented to the Society by Mr. Toulmin, recently the owner of the field.

Some of the stones were exhibited and commented on by Mr. Clarkson, who also made suggestions as to the future work of the Society.

Mr. R. T. Andrews read a paper on the “Stones of the ancient church of S. Mary the Great, discovered in 1888 near the Old Cross, Hertford,” a plan of the locality was exhibited, also a photograph of the moulded stones, and sections.

Mr. F. Kinneir Tarte read “Notes on ancient Floor Tiles existing in Winchester Cathedral and elsewhere,” exhibiting specimens and drawings.

Thanks were tendered to the readers of papers.

The Meeting then became conversational.

The Rev. Dr. Griffith commented on a mediæval seal and a steel crossbow, lent by Mr. J. Savage.

Some interesting books were inspected; among them “Britton’s History and Design of Cassiobury Park,” and a “History of Gorhambury, by Mrs. Charlotte Grimston,” lent by Mr. A. E. Gibbs.

July 29th, 1890.

JOHN GRIFFITH.