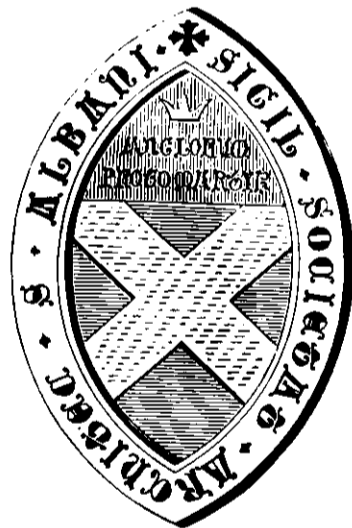


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St. Albans Architectural
AND
Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS
1893 & 1894.



St. Albans:

PRINTED BY GIBBS AND BAMFORTH, MARKET PLACE.

1896.

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St. Albans Architectural Society,

FOUNDED 1845.

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Obituary Note.

Our Committee have to record with much sorrow the death of one of its most valued and sympathetic members, Mr. George Upton Robins, of Delaport, Wheathampstead, who had been a member of the Society since 1872. His genial presence will be greatly missed on our Excursion days, while his frequent hospitality to our members at such times will be always gratefully remembered.

S. ALBANS
Architectural and Archaeological
SOCIETY.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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Ride, John, Esq., Victoria St., S. Albans

Shapps, Hen: Jun: Esq., Knebworth House

Roberts, Mr. Upton, Delahart, Wheathampstead

Wallen F., Esq., Bricketts, Watford

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PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting held at the Town Hall, S. Albans,
April 6th, 1893.

Present—G. Upton Robins, Esq., in the chair; The Hon. Secretaries, Rev. Canon Liddell, and Messrs. H. Toulmin, R. L. Howard, G. Mowat, Flint Clarkson, Kinneir Tarte, Trevor Davys, A. E. Gibbs.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

The following new Members were elected—W. Page, Esq., F.S.A., The White House, S. Albans; H. E. Wroot, Esq., Bradford; Rev. G. B. Gainsford, Hitchin; W. Brigg, Esq., Harpenden; A. W. Anderson, Esq., Watford.

The retiring Members of the Committee were re-elected.

The Rev. Canon Liddell was elected on the Committee.

The two Secretaries, the Treasurer, and other officers were re-elected.

The Local Secretary reported the following books and pamphlets presented to the Society—Weale's "Early Masters in Christian Decoration," folio, 1844, given by Mr. Toulmin; Carter's "S. Albans Abbey," by Miss Wilde, per Miss Martineau; "Layman's Prayer-book, c. 1400," by the Editor, Mr. H. Littlehales; Archæological Survey of Herts, Farewell Address to Society of Antiquaries, by Sir John Evans, K.C.B., &c., by the Author; "Palimpsest Brass of Sir A. Fitz-Herbert," A. A. Armstrong; also "Notes and Queries" for 1892, by Mrs. Masters; Associated Societies' Reports, 1891; Cambridge Antiquarian Society, Proceedings, 1891; Three wax Vesica seals, by Miss Wilde.

The thanks of the Society were voted to the donors.

It was agreed that an Evening Meeting should be arranged by Mr. Fowler to take place before June 1st.

The Chairman announced an expedition to Ely to be conducted by the Rev. Canon Davys on August 10th; also a local Excursion to be arranged by Mr. Flint Clarkson with the Local Secretary for June 5th.

The audited Balance Sheet was presented. It was agreed that the Transactions of last year should be printed as soon as the funds permitted.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

May 17, 1893.

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, S. Albans,
May 17th.

Present—The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence, in the chair; the Hon. Local Secretary, Messrs. Flint Clarkson, F. Kinneir Tarte, W. H. Hardy, W. Page, R. L. Howard, A. Oliver, W. R. L. Lowe, and other members and friends.

Mr. Fowler expressed the regret of Canon Davys at being unable to attend.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been confirmed, an Archæological Excursion was announced as arranged for June 5th.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., read the paper which he had prepared on "The Marian Survey of the town of S. Albans," illustrating it by the large scale Ordnance Map. A vote of thanks was accorded, and the hope expressed that the valuable communication would be printed.

Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., Assistant Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, delivered his address on the remains of "a Romano-British Church, found at Silchester in 1892, exhibiting plans and diagrams, and making reference to analogous discoveries made in the Numidian town of Thamugadi. The lecture excited much interest, and some remarks were offered by Mr. W. R. Lowe, Mr. Flint Clarkson, Rev. H. Fowler, and others. A cordial vote of thanks was given to the lecturer. The desire was expressed that the site of Verulamium might be explored in search for similar vestiges of Romano-British Christianity.

Mr. A. E. Gibbs exhibited some ancient pottery taken from circular pits discovered in making alterations at the "Herts Advertiser" Printing Office, formerly the "Moot Hall."

He explained that five such pits had been explored recently in excavating for the foundations of a new building. These pits were about 4 feet in diameter: one was opened to the depth of 24 feet. An animal's skull was found.

He exhibited a portion of a Papal Bull relating to the Priory of the Pré in the time of Abbot Robert de Gorham; also an Elizabethan document, a grant of Sir Nicholas Bacon.

Mr. St. John Hope pronounced the pottery to be Roman, and the pits to be the rubbish depositories usually found in proximity to Roman habitations.

Mr. W. J. Hardy suggested that an application should be made to the Earl of Verulam for the protection of the remains of the Roman walls.

By the invitation of the Chairman the Meeting then became conversational. Various objects of interest placed on the table were discussed.

WALTER J. LAWRENCE.

May 9, 1894.
