

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING held in the Library on *Wednesday, 30 November 1983*, at 4.0 pm, S MAXWELL, MA, President, in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The President welcomed Fellows to the 203rd Anniversary Meeting. G Barclay and Rev Dr M Dilworth were appointed scrutineers for the Ballot for Office-Bearers.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary read the following *Annual Report*:

Once again it is possible to report an increase in the number of Fellows. New Fellows elected during the year numbered 139, while deaths, resignations and lapses lost us 75, a net increase of 64. The steadily increasing membership supports a steadily increasing volume of activity while enabling the subscription to be held steady for yet another year. During the six years since the subscription was set at £10, the membership has increased by 20%, fortunately offsetting the effects of inflation.

Meetings, Lectures, Conference and Excursion

The ordinary meetings of the Society continued from the last Anniversary Meeting until April, and began again in October. The Conference was held at the end of October. The subject was 'Neolithic and Bronze Age Settlement in the Western Isles' and the successful day was devised by Patrick Ashmore and jointly sponsored by the Department of Archaeology of Edinburgh University.

The Rhind Lectures were delivered in April by Professor J D van der Waals from Groningen University on 'Aspects of the early and late Neolithic in north-western Europe'. The first Buchan Lecture was given during the year by Professor A C Thomas on the subject of 'The Unique Significance of Pictish Art'. The Buchan Lecture is to be an annual event, funded from the newly established Regional Fund, and organized by one or more local societies. The lecture took place in Dundee under the auspices of the Abertay Historical Society.

A new book by two Fellows, W S Hanson and G S Maxwell, was the occasion for a very successful excursion in May. The two authors of the book on the Antonine Wall guided the 60 Fellows round a number of the sites on the very day, by chance, that the book was launched. Unfortunately, Mrs S Grossmith has had to resign as Excursion Secretary.

North-East Section

There are 191 members of the Section. The eight lectures given this session in Marischal College Senior Common Room, Aberdeen, were all repeats of those given in Edinburgh on the previous evening. The AGM and Fellows' Evening was held on 10 May, and gave an opportunity for local Fellows to speak: G Leiper on Pompeii, D Leslie on Leslie Castle, and I B M Ralston on Aerial Photography. Those elected to serve for the year were: Chairman, A A Woodham; Vice Chairman, I A G Shepherd; Secretary, A Hidalgo; Treasurer, W A Taylor; Committee, Miss A Baird, I A F David, Mrs H B Dransart, G R Esslemont, G Leiper, Miss J Stones, J Watt. The meeting was followed by a cheese and wine party at Provost Skene's Kitchen, now an established custom. Three excursions were held, to two promontory forts at Dundarg and Cullykhan, to Girdleness Lighthouse, and to Pitfichie Castle, Monymusk.

Research

The Society was able to devote an increased sum to the aiding of research. A total of nearly £3400 was awarded (an increase of 10% over last year), the recipients being: T L Affleck for trial excavation St Connel's Chapel, Tynron, Dumfriesshire; L Alcock for excavation at Castle Urquhart, Inverness-shire; M Ash for biography of Daniel Wilson, research in Canada; J C Barrett for survey of landscape around three Argyll duns; J L Davidson and A S Henshall for fieldwork on Orcadian chamber tombs; A F Harding for plotting henges from air photographs; P Hill for exploratory excavation of 'cord-rig' and other phenomena of past agricultural landscapes; D Longley for study of the finds from the Mote of Mark, Dumfriesshire, excavations 1913 and later; J I McKinley for study of documentary evidence relating to deserted islands in Orkney; D M Reynolds and S P Halliday for fieldwork on 'cord-rig'; A Ritchie for excavation of the Neolithic tomb, Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney; E J Talbot for excavation of a square motte, Sorbie, Wigtownshire; E C Willsher for recording Scottish graveyards; R J Mercer for Archaeological Field Survey in Caithness, to underwrite publication costs (second half of grant agreed 1982).

Publication

Volume 111 of the *Proceedings* appeared at last during the session under review. Volume 112, even larger, has just failed to appear in the same session, now being expected to arrive any day. Volume 113 is well in hand and due for publication in the early summer of 1984. In line with the decision to move forward the closing date for submission of material for publication in the *Proceedings*, the Anniversary Meeting this year is the closing date for Volume 114.

The decision in principle, reported last year, that excavation reports and other suitable contributions should be produced as two-level publications, has been reinforced by the approval of Council of a plan to use microfiche in each volume of the *Proceedings* and a set of guidelines for authors.

The second volume in the Society's Monograph Series was published at the beginning of the session; it is titled *Excavations in the Medieval Burgh of Aberdeen 1973-81* and was edited by J C Murray.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer read the following *Treasurer's report* for the year 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983:

The Society has passed a comfortable year, financially speaking, yielding a surplus on current account, over the year, of £5135. This is almost entirely a measure of the very favourable rates of interest enjoyed during the year and the pursuit of a high degree of fiscal and administrative efficiency by the Society's permanent and honorary staff. Without wishing to appear unnecessarily gloomy the rates of interest that did apply in the years 1981-83 now show every indication of falling quite substantially—meaning that the Society's funds invested on deposit account will yield substantially less income in the immediate future. In view of this change the Assistant Treasurer has embarked upon an exercise to investigate the possible redeployment of funds 'on call' to maximize the possible income. Nevertheless whatever the outcome of this exercise it is likely that income in the future in this direction will fall. Similarly there is a limit to the savings that administrative and fiscal efficiency can achieve and while there are still areas where further effort would be worthwhile, the Society is now pretty 'streamlined'. The proportion of our Fellows covenanting their subscriptions is now well over 30%, yielding an income to the Society of nearly £3000 per annum. This is a high proportion by any standards and stands thus largely due to the Herculean efforts of our Assistant Treasurer. But a high proportion could still be a great deal higher and while many of our Fellows may not be able to covenant their subscriptions because they are able and anxious to claim their subscription payment against their own tax assessment, any Fellow who does not so claim could covenant his subscription to the Society without any loss to himself and, as I hope has been made clear, at very considerable benefit to the Society. Theoretically it should be possible for at least 50% of our fellowship to covenant their subscriptions without loss or inconvenience thus enabling the Exchequer to make a substantial contribution to the Society's funds. I would earnestly urge Fellows to consider this painless method of enhancing their subscription.

Informative comment upon the items listed in the Receipts and Payments Account is limited. In almost every area expenditure is stable or showing only those increases dictated by the necessities of the situation. The notable changes comprise the increase in the expenses of Council and its Committees (from £73 to £301) consequent upon Council's decision to pay the minimum travel expenses of its members coming from a distance to these meetings. The reduction in 'Miscellaneous Expenses' is brought about by the savings incurred by the Society in engaging a part-time auditor. The legal expenses of setting up the Urban Archaeological Trust is a 'one off' gesture of goodwill to this nascent institution. The transfer of funds to the Research Fund has been increased and shows indications of keeping pace with meritorious demand in that the fund (see p 667) was marginally underspent. The accounted (minimal) reduction of funding to the production of our *Proceedings* is partly a reflection of changed publishers of the projected volume 112 and partly a reflection of the final state of the 1981-82 figure and the advance nature of the 1982-83 figure.

For the coming financial year vigilance as to expenditure is, as ever, required but the report of two consecutive surpluses of £3000 and £5000 has prompted the Treasurer to request Council to consider developments, whether they be in publication, research or other directions, wherein part of the surplus can be invested. To this end he has reinstated the Publication Fund to run parallel to the Research Fund, funds that act as the proper recipients from year to year of such benefits. The Treasurer would, furthermore, remind Fellows, if they need reminding, that *Ars longa vita brevis est*. The furtherance of the Society's objectives will benefit enormously from legacies made in the Society's favour. These can be couched in general or specific terms and may be attached to the donor's name, or not, as desired.

The President referred to the request made at the last Anniversary Meeting that the Society should encourage an interest for Scottish history and archaeology in Scottish schools, and said that Council had requested a paper summarizing the plans of the National Museum and other bodies, and would discuss the matter at the next Council meeting. As there were no comments on the Report by the Secretary and Treasurer it was adopted on the motion of P J Ashmore, seconded by T Cowie.

The President thanked those members of Council who were retiring having served three years. He also paid tribute to the other office-bearers for the work they had done during the session 1982-83.

THE BALLOT

The scrutineers found and declared the list of Council members for the ensuing year to be as follows:

President

Vice-Presidents

S Maxwell, MA

A A Woodham, BSc, PhD

Professor B Proudfoot, BA, PhD, FSA

J G Dunbar, MA, FSA

Councillors

J C Barrett, BSc, FSA
 J L Davidson, BEM
 Professor D W Harding, MA, DPhil
 Mrs A M Kahane, MA
 R Fawcett, BA, PhD, FSA
 Mrs H K Murray, BA, PhD
 J B Stevenson, BA, FSA
 M T Williams, BE
 P J Ashmore, BSc, FSA
 Mrs E Beaton, BA
 Mrs L J Main, MA
 J G Scott, BA

Secretary

T F Watkins, BA, PhD, FSA

Treasurer

R J Mercer, MA, FSA, MIFA

Ex-Officio Members of Council

A Fenton, MA, BA, D Litt, FSA (Director of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland)
 A A Woodham, BSc, PhD (Society Representative on Board of Trustees for the National Museum)
 Rev D Shaw, PhD, ThDr, (Society Representative on Board of Trustees for the National Museum)
 L J Masters, BA, FSA (Society Representative on Board of Trustees for the National Museum)
 R W Munro (Society Representative on Board of Trustees for the National Museum)
 I A G Shepherd, MA, FSA, MIFA (Editor)

THE ROLL

The following record was not read at the meeting.

The deaths of the following Fellows were intimated during the year 1982-83:

	<i>Elected</i>
Professor James Whyte Leitch Adams, MA, BA, Red Cottage, 80 Forthill Road. Broughty Ferry, Dundee	1949
William W Barr, 456 Victoria Road, Crosshill, Glasgow	1969
Thomas Morton Bradford, DCM, MA, FEIS, 24 Priors Walk, Coldingham, Eyemouth, Berwickshire	1970
R T Clough, ARIBA, Stoneleigh, Ferncliffe Drive, Keighley, Yorkshire	1956
Alexander Moorhouse Chrystie, Rowantree Cottage, Reform Street, Beith, Ayrshire	1977
Eric Cregeen, MA, Eagleview, Auchterarder, Perthshire	1957
Rev Thomas Smith Crichton, MA, Rubislaw Park House, Rubislaw Park Road, Aberdeen	1932
Charles A H Franklyn, MA, MD, FLS, 44 Sackville Gardens, Hove, Sussex	1923
William Fraser, 40 Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh	1977
W H Gillespie, 25 Dalmorglen Park, Stirling	1955
Jesse Herbert Grant, BSc, MSc, 3645 Darby Road, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010, USA	1982
Frank Allen Greenhill, MA, FSA, The Manor House, Great Oxendon, Market Harborough, Leicestershire	1939
Hugh Llewellyn Jones, MA, 65 Kenilworth Court, London SW15	1974
Neil Ripley Ker, MA, D Litt, FBA, FSA, 22 London Street, Edinburgh	1971
David Ian Lindsay, Lindsay Warehouse, John Street, Oban, Argyll	1966
Robert Morrison, MA, 6 St Margaret's Loan, Dunblane, Perthshire	1981
Peter Moar, 4 Thorfinn Street, Lerwick	1949
John Mercer, FIL, FCA, FRSGS, 8 Scotland Street, Edinburgh	1969
Mrs Barbara Kelman Murray, Dean Isla, Meigle, Perthshire.	1971
John Alexander McCaughan, BSc, FAS, LHG, 21 Hambly Avenue, Toronto 260, Ontario, Canada	1970
Rev James Sabine McGivern, SJ, MBE, CD, BA, MA, PhD, FRGS, 355 Church Street, Toronto, Canada	1971

Colin Roy Charles Plom, 16 Oak Road, Grays, Essex	1972
William Wallace Porter, 7 Louisville Avenue, Aberdeen	1973
Rev W E Robinson, MA, LTh, 9 Rosebery Road, Stanwix, Carlisle	1939
Colonel George Archer Rusk, DSO, MC, Ault Lochy, Auchterarder, Perthshire	1967
Miss Winifred Simpson, Hoselaw, Kelso	1951
Miss A L Shaw, Laurel Bank, 41 Bog Road, Penicuik, Midlothian	1955
James Stevenson, MA, 24A Lensfield Road, Cambridge	1964
Dr James Stewart, 8 Throsset Walk, Slyne, Lancaster	1953
Professor Sir Eric G Turner, MA, FBA, Thornheath, Cathedral Square, Fortrose, Ross-shire	1946
Ms Helen West, MA, 16 Penders Lane, Falkirk, Stirlingshire	1975

COMMUNICATION

The following paper was read:

'Air-Photography in the Cheviots: Problems of Technique and Plotting' by Professor D W Harding, MA, D Phil, FSA Scot.