

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING held in the Library on *Saturday 30 November 1985*, at 4.00 pm, Professor L ALCOCK, MA, FSA, FRSE, FRHistS, President, in the Chair.

Dr R B K Stevenson and Mr J Ellis were appointed scrutineers for the Ballot for Office-Bearers.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary and Treasurer read the following *Annual Report*:

Membership

In the year under review the Society has seen the largest net increments to its membership. One hundred and eighty-four new Fellows were elected, while 72 memberships were lost through death, resignation or lapses. The net increase of 112 Fellows brings the total on the Roll to 2369, including 20 Honorary Fellows.

Meetings

Beyond the regular pattern of our ordinary meetings, which proceeded as usual from the last Anniversary Meeting until April and resumed in October, there has been a number of other meetings, not all of them in Edinburgh.

Recently our Fellow, Mr John Dunbar, Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, has travelled to Norway to give what is called there the Fischer-Lindsay Lecture, which alternates each year with the Lindsay-Fischer Lectures held here. The Rhind Lecturer for the year now finished was Professor G W S Barrow, who took as his subject 'Patterns of Settlement in Medieval Scotland'. An extraordinary day-event was organized for Fellows by Mr Graeme Cruickshank to mark a quite extraordinary anniversary, the 1300th of the Battle of Nechtansmere. The day took the form of an excursion which centred on a visit to the probable site of the battle. Prior to that our President unveiled a commemorative cairn which the Letham and District Community Council had placed in Dunnichen, the village adjacent to the battlefield. Afterwards the two coachloads of Fellows visited Restenneth Priory where Dr Richard Fawcett described the remains

which have been recently re-examined, and the Aberlemno churchyard cross-slab, on whose historical significance the President spoke. The Forfar and District Historical Society did much to make smooth our visit to their area, and the Hunter Trust very kindly extended hospitality to the whole party.

This year, for the first time, the Society sponsored two Buchan lectures from the Regional Fund, and both, as it happened, were papers read at conferences. On 27 April in Kilmarnock, Dr Margaret Sanderson gave a paper on 'Late Medieval Ayrshire Communities' as a contribution to a conference on the Middle Ages in Ayrshire organized by the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies. And in early July the Inverness Field Club held a conference on 'The Highlands in the 17th Century', at which Dr S Maclean spoke on Gaelic Poetry of the relevant period.

North-East Section

The programme of lectures in 1984-5 was the same as in Edinburgh except that there was no meeting in January, but an extra meeting heard Dr T F Watkins speak on his excavation at Rullion Green, Midlothian. The Annual General Meeting was held on 7 May and heard talks by Mr J C Murray on Aberdeen coin hoards and Mr D Evans on recent work at Aberdeen Castlegate. The following were elected to the Committee: Chairman, I A G Shepherd; Vice-Chairman, G Leiper; Secretary, A Hidalgo; Treasurer, W A Taylor; Committee members, Mrs H B Dransart, J Inglis, G Steele, Mrs K W Stewart, R A Watt, Dr A A Woodham, Miss F Young. Excursions visited the medieval site under excavation at Rattray, the Aquhollie ogam stone, Dunnideer hill fort, and Balquhain Castle. The membership of the Section now stands at about 219.

Research

The number of applications for financial support of research was fewer than in the previous year, although the total sought still exceeded the funds available. The following projects have received grants in this year now past: excavation of a Mesolithic site at Starr, Loch Doon, Ayrshire (T L Affleck); excavation of the Roman fort at Barochan Hill, Renfrewshire (L J F Keppie); survey of chambered cairns in Caithness (J L Davidson and A S Henshall); preparing a corpus of stone axes for Scotland (P R Ritchie); recording Brechin Cathedral graveyard (F S Gordon); recording graveyards in Perthshire (E C Willsher); post-survey work on the archaeological survey of Fair Isle (J R Hunter); post-excavation work on Iron Age to early medieval site at Brough an Drummin, Poltalloch, Argyll (S Cregeen); post-excavation work on the Norse House, Biggins, Papa Stour, Shetland (B E Crawford); X-ray fluorescence analysis of Viking silver ingots (S E Kruse); radiocarbon dates from ring ditch houses at Ironshill, Angus (Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee); investigations at the Scottish colony, Caledonia Bay, Panama (P L Flavell); fieldwork in Orkney (C C Richards).

While the Society's funds to sponsor research are from time to time increased by bequests or donations, a regular annual increment is derived from the investment of the moneys paid by new Fellows on entering the Society. The inception of this policy was in 1977, and the amount of the contribution from that cumulative investment to the funds for research for this year has amounted to £898. It may be of interest to note here that, while the Research Committee naturally appreciates the modesty and economy of many of the applications, it has for some years been able to make several grants of hundreds of pounds each, and this year for the first time offered a grant as large as £1000.

Publication

In November this year Volume 114 of the *Proceedings* was produced. In simple bulk it is less heavy than its immediate predecessors, but, in accordance with the policy announced in the Editorial of Volume 113, it includes microfiche which comprise several hundred more pages of detailed information for the researcher. The Editor and his colleagues in the editorial group are to be congratulated on their gradual success in pulling forward the date at which the volumes are published.

No new volume in the *Monograph Series* has been published in the year since the last Anniversary Meeting. However, several additions to the series are at various stages of preparedness, and one should become available in 1986. Mr A M Thomson, who has dealt with the orders for *Monographs*, has resigned on his leaving Edinburgh, and Mr J A Crawford has undertaken this task for the Society.

As sales steadily grow, the *Monograph Series* continues to establish itself as an important contribution to research publication. Acknowledging that these are specialist publications, it is

gratifying to note that sales of individual volumes now amount to 235, 250 and 158 for *Monographs* 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The National Heritage (Scotland) Act, the Museum and the Society

Under the National Heritage (Scotland) Act, which was passed by Parliament in its last session, the old National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and its Board of Trustees ceased to exist at the end of September 1985. The museum with which the Society has felt a parental bond for more than 200 years has now become a partner in the new National Museums of Scotland. From 1 October 1985 what were the National Museum and the Royal Scottish Museum were joined together to become the powerful core of the new group, and this core has been renamed the Royal Museum of Scotland. A new Board of Trustees has been established to take responsibility for the new organization, and the Society has lost its right to nominate members to the Board of Trustees and for its President to sit on the Board *ex officio*. It would not be surprising if our Society, after more than two centuries of slowly evolving parental responsibility, should feel a sense of shock and momentary sadness at the breaking of such bonds. The museum to which this Society gave birth and which it nurtured through infancy, childhood and adolescence has finally grown up, got married and left the Society behind.

At this moment, only two months after the inception of the new museum group, it is too soon to see fully how the new relationships between the Society and the museums will be shaped, but certain things are clear. The Society retains its offices in the museum, and we shall continue to meet in our traditional meeting-place. The Act guarantees that Fellows of the Society will continue to have the right of access to the Library as before. The Society will no longer have the right to nominate Trustees, but the Secretary of State for Scotland is obliged under the new Act to ensure that at least one Fellow of our Society is a member of the Board of Trustees. Indeed among the first nine Trustees appointed the chairman and three others are Fellows. Under the new dispensation, as under its predecessor, Fellows of our Society will continue to play an important role, but in a museum body with much larger resources and greatly broadened perspective. We are assured that the role of the old National Museum of Antiquities in illustrating and interpreting Scotland's history will remain a central role of the new museum. And we, the present Fellows of the Society, may legitimately feel proud on behalf of all our predecessors that the vital role played by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in the history of the National Museum has been so widely acknowledged and recognized during this past year.

Treasurer's Report

The fiscal good health of the Society must reside in its buoyant and indeed still increasing Fellowship. An increase of over 100 Fellows sees our subscriptions at an all time high with a similar enhancement (once again a tribute to Mrs Meldrum's industry) in our covenanted subscriptions and the income that arises therefrom. Furthermore our investment income shows a substantial increase.

Thus far the good news. On the negative side the expenses of the Society in its programme of meetings, its stationery bills, postages, Council and committee expenses have risen by an average of 25–30%. But it is in the maintenance and development of the areas of our primary interest that really great strides have been made and as a consequence greater costs borne. The inauguration of our publication fund and its present healthy condition, the reinforcement of our resources available for excavation and research and the inauguration of the new Bursary Fund, with the assistance of a legacy from Miss McKechnie of Glasgow, to assist young antiquaries to attend international symposia. The Rhind Lectureship Fund, with the addition of a bequest made to the Society by Mrs Wilson of Dundee, has been re-established so that it can fully cover the costs involved in the fulfilment of its objectives.

Added to this a new appraisal has been undertaken of the conditions and the salaries of the staff of the Society who have seen our Fellowship double over the last 18 years with a consequent massive increase in work and increases in efficiency that have formed a consistent source for comment in these and other reports. The consequence is a limited but far-reaching restructuring of salaries and the setting up of a contingency fund to which, this year, £2,000 has been voted – a fund intended to cover our ultimate legal and moral responsibilities to the Society's paid staff.

In the face of these increasing demands, it is indeed fortunate that we have been able to renegotiate with the Scottish Development Department the terms of grant given by that body to the Society to produce the distinguished series of *Monographs* that bear our *Imprimatur*. Cash-flow difficulties that were rapidly accruing have been overcome by this means and the production of the Society's own *Monographs* made altogether easier and more assured.

In the face of this extraordinary period of development over the last two to three years we have maintained a remarkable fiscal record. We have retained our subscription at the level fixed in 1977 through a period when inflation has diminished its real value by over 50%. We also end the year showing a surplus of £3,221.

For some years now I have endeavoured to emphasize the misleading nature of such surpluses and to draw your attention to the demands of our Society's broadening responsibilities and interests. To me it would appear that the crunch is now rapidly approaching. Tresorial estimates for the year 1985-6 suggest that surpluses will drop to near the £1000 mark and that we cannot put off for much longer the question of a rise in subscriptions. I would therefore suggest, in consultation with your Finance and Administration Committee, whose advice has been a source of great assistance, that the Society's subscription should rise as of 30 June 1986 to £15 per annum. Proportional arrangements should be made, as there are at present, for retired Fellows.

The Annual Report was adopted on the motion of Mr P J Ashmore seconded by Mr J L Davidson.

The President introduced the motion approved by Council, which had been circulated together with an explanatory letter, and had been referred to in the Treasurer's report: 'that with effect from the next financial year commencing 1 July 1986 the annual rate of subscription for Fellows be £15, but that those Fellows who are of 10 years standing and who have reached retirement may, if they wish, pay at an annual rate of £12; and that the Entrance Fee payable on election to the Fellowship be £10, but that those who are under 30 years of age on election will pay £6'. The Treasurer said that the subscription for a second Fellow from one household would be raised to £8, as proposed in the President's letter. Professor Alcock said that Council is considering the offer of Life Membership for Fellows over 60 years of age, and concessions for Fellows who have retired early.

Adoption of the motion having been proposed by the Secretary, it was seconded by Dr R B K Stevenson, and was declared carried.

The President referred to the draft proposals for changes in Law 13, approved by Council and which had been circulated, and he asked for comments. In reply to questions, the Secretary said that the proposals regarding *ex officio* members had been welcomed by the officials of the bodies concerned, and the proposal to have 'assessors' without voting rights was felt appropriate for Councillors who may not be Fellows. The President said that Council would seek acceptance of the proposals at a General Meeting in February.

THE BALLOT

The scrutineers reported the list of Council members for the ensuing year to be as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>President</i> | Professor L Alcock, MA, FSA, FRSE, FRHistS |
| <i>Vice-Presidents</i> | J G Dunbar, MA, FSA D J Breeze, BA, PhD, FSA A Fenton, BA, MA, DLitt, FSA, FRSE |
| <i>Councillors</i> | P J Ashmore, BSc, FSA Mrs E Beaton, BA Mrs L J Main, MA J G Scott, BA D V Clarke, BA, PhD, FSA R M Emerson, BA Mrs D M Reynolds, MA, MIFA Miss C R Wickham-Jones, MA, MIFA Miss J M Bennett, BL W S Hanson, BA, PhD, FSA Mrs A Ritchie, BA, PhD, FSA Miss J A Stones, MA |
| <i>Secretary</i> | T F Watkins, BA, PhD, FSA |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | R J Mercer, MA, FSA, MIFA |
| <i>Ex-Officio Members of Council</i> | I A G Shepherd, MA, FSA, MIFA (Editor) M T Williams, BE (Convener of the Finance and Administration Committee) |

THE ROLL

The record of deaths of the following Fellows intimated during the year 1984–5 was not read at the meeting:

| | <i>Elected</i> |
|---|----------------|
| Miss Sylvia Benton, MA, BLitt, FSA, Four Winds, Lossiemouth, Moray. | 1928 |
| Professor Alphonsus P Campbell, BA, MA, PhD, LLD, 11 Crownhill Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1J 7K1, Canada. | 1981 |
| T Clarke, DA, 60 Balbedie Avenue, Lochore, Fife. | 1962 |
| James Davidson, MB, ChB, FRCPE, Linton Muir, West Linton, Peeblesshire. | 1937 |
| Rev James J Davidson, St Rognvald House, Corseloa, Kirkwall, Orkney. | 1962 |
| John Telfer Dunbar, Hartree Mill, Biggar, Lanark. | 1946 |
| Walter Duncan, MA, JP, Quarrelwood, Kirkmahoe, Dumfries. | 1946 |
| John H Greig, 18 Emsdorf Street, Lundin Links, Fife. | 1966 |
| Miss Betty Cossar Hamilton, LRCP&S, DPH, 40 Drummond Place, Edinburgh. | 1975 |
| Mrs D V Hereward, 15 High Street, Toller Porcorum, Dorchester, Dorset. | 1946 |
| Alexander Ingles, MA, FBOA, Laurel Bank, 211 Ferry Road, Edinburgh. | 1951 |
| Mrs Enid Poole Jones, Glyn, West Kilbride, Ayrshire. | 1930 |
| James J Lamb, OBE, TD, LLB, WS, 49 Queen Street, Edinburgh. | 1947 |
| Reverend Albert John Langdon, MA, LLB, Dip Ed, 41 Stewarton Drive, Cambuslang, Glasgow. | 1980 |
| Miss M F Michie, MBE, MA, Dip Ed, Burnside, Dunlappie Road, Edzell, Brechin, Angus. | 1955 |
| J C Milligan, PhD, MA, BSc, MEd, 25 Hilton Street, Aberdeen. | 1952 |
| James Fairweather Milne, MA, MB, ChB, Parkhill House, Rattray, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. | 1946 |
| Captain Sir Iain Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, Bt, MA, LLB, PhD, Easter Moncreiffe, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. | 1948 |
| Raymond John McCabe, 25A Chelsea Drive, Savannah, GA 31404, USA. | 1982 |
| W S McLean, Westerpark, Falkirk Road, Linlithgow, West Lothian. | 1955 |
| Peter Allan Oliver, BSc, CEng, FICE, 7 Wilson Road, Banchory, Kincardineshire. | 1982 |
| Rev Robert Paterson, 3 Craigie Street, Prestwick, Ayrshire. | 1956 |
| Alistair James Ross, 68 High Street, Dunblane, Perthshire. | 1967 |
| George Shepherd, MPS, 15 Craigton Terrace, Mannofield, Aberdeen. | 1970 |
| Dennis C Smith, FIMLS, Bridge of Brown, Ballindalloch, Banffshire. | 1958 |
| Professor David Hugh Neven Spence, BSc, PhD, FRSE, 51 Spottiswoode Gardens, St Andrews, Fife. | 1980 |
| William R Spence, 3B Arkleston Court, Paisley, Renfrewshire. | 1981 |
| Professor Alexander Thom, PhD, DSc, LLD, MA, The Hill, Dunlop, Ayrshire. | 1968 |
| Iain C Walker, MA, PhD, PO Box 70, Greely, K0A 1Z0, Ontario, Canada. | 1960 |
| Mrs George Waterston, Keith Bridge, Humble, East Lothian. | 1958 |
| Rev Harold George Mullo Weir, MA, Benower, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire. | 1928 |

COMMUNICATION

Dr R G W Anderson, Director of the National Museums of Scotland, addressed the meeting on 'What's past and what's to come?'