

MINUTES OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING held in the library on *Tuesday, 30 November 1982* at 4.0 pm, S MAXWELL, MA, President, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. R Lines and A D Cameron were appointed scrutineers for the Ballot for Office-Bearers.

The Secretary read the following report:

#### ANNUAL REPORT

If anyone had thought that a body which had reached its 200th anniversary might have begun to slow a little and take things at a more relaxed pace, he would be incorrect. In almost every aspect of its life the Society has thrived in its 201st year; it has become more active, more productive, and it has certainly grown larger.

Last year it was reported that the membership had passed 2000 as the result of a deliberate effort by members to use the occasion of the bicentenary in order to attract new Fellows and thus strengthen the membership. Fortunately this trend to increase our numbers has been maintained. Over the year 1981-82, 152 new Fellows were elected, while deaths, resignations and lapses accounted for a loss of 82; the net gain was therefore 70. Among the losses through death were four of the small and prized group

of Honorary Fellows, Professor Michael O'Kelly, Dr Kristjan Eldjarn, Miss Françoise Henry, and Sir Hannibal Scicluna. It deserves to be noted again that the Society's ability to withstand the economic pressures of the day, to maintain and especially to extend its activities in the sponsorship and publication of research depend entirely on attracting new members; without more new members every year, as study of the annual accounts from year to year readily demonstrates, our level of activity, meetings, conferences, publication and research funding, would inevitably have to be curtailed.

*Meetings, Conferences, Lectures and Excursions.* The monthly meetings continued from the last Anniversary Meeting until April (with the now traditional extra meeting in late February), and began again in October. The major one-day conference within the session took place on 30 October. It was jointly sponsored by the Department of Fine Art of Edinburgh University and was devised by John Higgitt around the theme 'Royalty and the Patronage of the Arts in later Medieval Scotland'. It is appropriate to remark at this point that the publication derived from the previous October day conference of 1981 has recently appeared under the title 'Later Prehistoric Settlement in South East Scotland', edited by D W Harding, being occasional Paper no 8 of the Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh.

Professor George Jobey of the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne was the Rhind Lecturer for the session. He gave his six lectures in late April 1982, their subject being 'Pre-Roman and Native Settlement between the Tyne and Forth'. The second Lindsay-Fischer lecturer from Norway visited Scotland in October. Rijksarkitekt Haakon Christie lectured in the Library of the National Museum on the subject of 'The Stave Churches of Norway'. It is a pleasure to report progress in the matter of the new Buchan Lecture, the funding for which was noted in the last annual report. The fund and the purpose having been advertised, the first lecture has been planned with the Abertay Historical Society to take place early in 1983 in Dundee, and already co-sponsors for the 1984 lecture are being sought.

The programme of excursions, commenced as an experiment last session, was dealt a severe blow by the sudden death of W Latto who had so enthusiastically organized the first series. An excursion to Strathearn was devised by Marinell Ash and took place on Saturday, 29 May. Mrs S Grossmith has agreed to take over the role of Excursion Secretary and more excursions are in active planning.

*The North-East Section.* There is keen interest in the Society in the North-East area, partly due to the volume of work going on in the Region and City of Aberdeen. This has meant the membership has now risen to 200. During the summer the group visited Leslie Castle, whose new owner is about to commence restoration. The group therefore had the opportunity of seeing the castle before work commenced and have an invitation to see it again when work is completed. Also on the outings list were a number of stone circles in Buchan. The Annual General Meeting was held on 11 May 1982. 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, G R Esslemont, I M McAdam, E S Massie, P Rennie, J A Souter, Miss J A Stones, A Watt. Members' talks at the AGM were: Judith Stones on The Excavation at the Carmelite Priory, Aberdeen and A A Woodham on Bennachie.

*Research.* Once again increased funds were available for the aiding of research with the annual increment from new Fellows' entry fees, the first income from the Bicentenary Research Fund and a supplement from the Society's general funds. A total of £2,680 was awarded (an increase over last year of £481), the recipients and their projects being: B E Crawford, to assist completion of excavation of Norse house, Papa Stour, Shetland; J L Davidson and A S Henshall, for fieldwork on Orcadian chambered cairns; J C Greig, for radiocarbon dates for a cairn cemetery, Lundin Links, Fife; J W Hedges and B Bell, for drawing the finds from the unpublished excavation, Broch of Lingro, Orkney; R J Mercer, for investigation of a possible neolithic causewayed enclosure at Spott Dod, E Lothian; R J Mercer, to underwrite the publication costs of the archaeological field survey in Caithness; A Ritchie, for excavation of a stalled cairn, Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney; C Wickham-Jones, for lithic studies in Sweden; Glasgow Urban Archaeology Support Group, for excavation at Rotten Row, Glasgow; Falkirk Museum, for post-excavation work on Kinneil Roman fortlet, West Lothian.

*Publication.* Pride of place in this part of the Annual Report must be given to the publication of the first volume in the new series, long in gestation, of the Society's Monographs. Mrs Curle's publication of the excavated material from Brough of Birsay appeared in the middle of the summer, closely followed

by the report on the excavations in the medieval burgh of Aberdeen edited by J C Murray; another volume is at an advanced stage of editorial preparation.

Volume 110 of the Society's Proceedings was finally delivered by the printer at the very end of 1981, by which time it was too late to try to re-route Volume 111 to another printer. T & A Constable, the printers, have had a traumatic year, being taken over by a firm which itself fell into receivership. At the time of writing, Volume 111 is still promised by the struggling printers, but it remains to be seen, and promised delivery dates have again repeatedly slipped. Volume 112, submissions for which closed in January 1982, will be an even larger volume than 110, the latest which Fellows will have yet received. After extensive enquiries by the Editorial Group it was decided to place the contract to print Volume 112 with a firm in Surrey, there being now no reliable firm with the requisite facilities and experience in Edinburgh. To date work is proceeding to the printer's schedule and publication is anticipated in the early summer of 1983.

Two changes of editorial policy have been agreed during the year which should be remarked by Fellows. From 1983 the closing date for submissions for the Proceedings will be moved forward to the date of the Anniversary Meeting so as to allow longer for editorial consideration and discussion with intending contributors. Final decision on the composition of the next volume will be made in the new year, and production and publication may then be able to be pulled back earlier than the currently predicted date of May in any year.

As a result of the report of a working party on publication chaired by D J Breeze, Council took a decision in principle that the publication of excavation reports in the Proceedings should be produced as two-level reports. The dual purpose of this decision is to achieve some economies in the number of printed pages of the Proceedings on the one hand and on the other hand fuller publication of the data, detailed archaeological analysis and other specialist reports using modern technology. The working party is to continue to investigate the relative merits and expenses of various techniques such as microfiche and computerized data storage and retrieval.

*The Urban Archaeology Unit.* With some difficulty agreement was reached with the Scottish Development Department over the immediate future of the Urban Archaeology Unit from the commencement of the government's financial year in April. Until there was some firm understanding of SDD's intentions it was impossible to expect the projected Scottish Urban Archaeology Trust to come into being to take over responsibility for the management of the Unit. After one or two last minute hitches the Trust was constituted and duly took over the Unit's staff as planned, if a little late. The Society will continue its interest in the work and well-being of the Unit through nominating one of the members of the Trust. At present the Unit is undergoing substantial changes in personnel, and uncertainties over government intentions and funding do not make its job or its prospects any easier. Excavation work in Perth has continued, both as directly funded rescue work and through projects funded by the Manpower Services Commission. Reports on a number of early excavations have now been completed and some submitted for publication; work on more recently completed excavations in preparation for publication has been the main pre-occupation of 1981 and 1982.

*Official consultation of the Society.* One aspect of the Society's role rarely receives mention, although it seems to have occupied much of the Council's time over the last two years. As a senior and national Society we are often asked by Government for our views on this or that set of proposals. It is impossible to consult quickly among our whole membership and usually it is Council which has the task of digesting difficult documents, and reaching sensible conclusions through often protracted discussion spread over several Council meetings. The most recent examples were the publication of the report of the committee chaired by Dr Alwyn Williams on the future of the national museums and galleries in Scotland. Council on behalf of the Society had already made two submissions to the committee, and during the last year Council has discussed the report and had the Secretary draft comments for the Secretary of State for Scotland. More recently the Secretary of State announced to the National Museum's Board of Trustees, the National Museum staff and the Royal Scottish Museum proposals aimed at streamlining the two museums through some sharing of facilities under a single director responsible for both museums to a single board of trustees, from which most representative trustees would be removed.

The Trustees nominated by the Society reported to Council and the Secretary of State has once again been advised of the close identity of interests and the involvement which the Society feels with the National Museum, our deep concern for the museum's proper support as a national museum of and for Scotland, and our hesitation regarding some at least of his proposals.

The importance of these and similar matters, and the difficulties of reaching sensible conclusions to convey in response, make the work of Council often demanding and onerous. The responsibility for the orderly working of the Society and the ensuring that it fulfils its functions likewise fall on Council, making it important that the membership play their part in finding a steady supply of suitable candidates to join Council.

*Treasurer's Report.* The Treasurer read the following report: The financial year 1981–1982 has seen the Society in a strong position and enhancing that strength first and foremostly by a substantial increase in its fellowship with some 140 new Fellows. This very encouraging trend has been accompanied, insofar as the Treasurer's department is concerned, by a further decline in the number of subscriptions in arrears as well as yet further enhancement of our income through covenanted payments. This latter course of action, open to all Fellows who do not set their subscriptions to the Society against their tax liability, is an entirely painless way of increasing the Society's income very substantially (to the tune of £2,500 in 1981–82) and the Treasurer would even now appeal to all Fellows who have not done so already, and who are in a position to do so, to take advantage of this scheme. Covenanted forms may be had at any time by application to the Assistant Treasurer of the Society at The National Museum of Antiquities, Queen Street, Edinburgh. To those few still in arrears on their subscription the Treasurer is bound to point out the costs borne by the Society both in the administration of this deficit and in the loss of income on subscriptions that could be invested.

From the point of view of administration the Fellowship will, I know, be very happy to observe that costs in this direction—Salaries, Expenses of Meetings, Printing and Stationery, Postages, etc, have actually fallen this year from a total in 1981 of £8,310 to a total in 1982 of £7,975. This is a tribute to the efforts of the Society's Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer to render our procedures as efficient as possible. The increase in our salary bill, of just over 1% over the year, is again a tribute to our staff (as well as an example, perhaps, in a rather wider context) and still retains our salary bill below 1979 levels.

The Society has continued to foster its primary pursuits, and the areas of increased expenditure with regard to meetings, transfers to the research fund and the publication fund all reflect this concern. Yet even with these increases the Society finds itself in net surplus to the tune of £3,300 at the financial year end. The Treasurer while, of course, pleased with this outcome would wish however to temper any general elation that might be felt in this direction. Volume 111 of the Society's Proceedings has been most unforgivably delayed by the printer, and, among many other effects that the Society has felt as a result of this hold up, has been the retention of the very large sum due for payment to the printer in our investment accounts until now, when normally it would have been paid out sometime last Spring. This has enhanced, rather artificially, the Society's income by something like £1,000. This has also been a year of phenomenally high interest rates which have dropped very sharply since June, and promise to go on dropping, so that, in the near future, it is unlikely that our investments will yield such high dividends. These factors and others will result, probably, in a reduction of this surplus next year to a point closer to parity.

The Society has had a good year financially and can, the Treasurer feels, be said to be in good fiscal fettle. But vigilance over expenditure and scrupulous examination of increased obligations will be necessary to hold on to this position in the future.

(NB The year covered by the Secretary's report runs from 1 December to 30 November, and by the Treasurer's report from 1 July to 30 June.)

The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by J B Stevenson, seconded by D J Breeze.

The President paid tribute to the office bearers of the Society, the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, and all those who help to organize excursions, distribution of the Monograph Series, distribution of the Proceedings and preparation of circulars for posting. The Society is greatly indebted to them all.

The President asked for comments on the Annual Report. Surprise was expressed that the next volume of the Proceedings is to be printed in Dorking, and it was suggested that a suitable firm could have been found in Glasgow if not in Edinburgh. The Convener of the Editorial Committee asked for details for consideration by the Committee. R B K Stevenson asked for more details in the abbreviated accounts of the sums expended from individual Funds. The Treasurer undertook to see what could be done. R Hamilton asked that an award for schools to increase interest in Scottish history and archaeology might be considered by the Society.

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

<i>President</i>	S Maxwell, MA
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	I MacIvor, BA, FSA A A Woodham, BSc, PhD Professor B Proudfoot, BA, PhD, FSA
<i>Councillors</i>	J N G Ritchie, MA, PhD, FSA A R Gordon, MA W S Hanson, BA Mrs E V W Proudfoot, MA, FSA J C Barrett, BSc 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
<i>Secretary</i>	T F Watkins, BA, PhD
<i>Treasurer</i>	R J Mercer, MA, FSA
<i>Ex-Officio Members of Council</i>	A Fenton, MA, BA, DLitt, 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 (Editor)

### *The Roll.*

The deaths of the following Fellows were intimated during the year 1981-82:

	<i>Elected</i>
Trevor Hugh Bowen, MA, 2 White Horse Close, Canongate, Edinburgh.	1972
Miss Phyllis J D Brown, 23 Belvidere Crescent, Aberdeen.	1970
Thomas Abercromby Petrie Hay Bryson, 5 Winton Drive, Edinburgh.	1981
Rev James B P Bulloch, MA, BD, PhD, Upper Loanside, Caledonian Road, Peebles.	1943
Professor Ian Macintyre Campbell, MA, 70 Thirlestane Road, Edinburgh.	1960
David Clement Cargill, AIBS, FSG, 20 Ravelston Gardens, Edinburgh.	1967
Sir William Duthie, OBE, Todearth Croft, Holmsburn, Leslie, Inch, Aberdeenshire.	1976
Dr Kirstjan Eldjarn, (Honorary Fellow), Bessastathir, Iceland.	1980
Sheldon P Fay, 1277 St Ives Place, Los Angeles 69, California, USA.	1966
William Glashan, DipArch, FRIBA, FRIAS, 44 Glenburn Drive, Inverness.	1971
Robin Fergus Maurice Fraser Gowans, The Glebe, Isle of Eigg.	1979
William Henry Timothy Harris, BA, 130 Craigleith Road, Edinburgh.	1968
Thomas Henderson, JP, The Old Manse, 9 Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland.	1964
Miss Françoise Henry, D-és-L, DLitt (Honorary Fellow), Villa Nova, Mount Merrion Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin.	1966 1961
Laurence King, FRIBA, The Wayside, Shenfield Common, Brentwood, Essex.	1951
William Dawson Lamont, MA, DPhil, DLitt, 37 Kirklee Road, Glasgow.	1968
William Latto, 14 Nile Grove, Edinburgh.	1956
Robert Murray Livingstone, JP, 4 Neilson Grove, Burntisland, Fife.	1968
Gordon Murray, BSc, MSc, 3C Crick Road, Oxford.	1975
W L McAdam, MD, MRCPI, DPM, Isle Castle, Isle of Whithorn, Wigtownshire.	1944

Professor Michael Joseph O'Kelly, MA, DLitt, MRIA, FSA, (Honorary Fellow), Department of Archaeology, University College, Cork, Ireland.	1977
Walter Muir Robertson, MB, ChB, 10A Hatfield Drive, Glasgow.	1925
Mrs Margaret B St Clair, BComm, AAPSW, Clairville, Northbank Avenue, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow.	1975
Sir Hannibal P Scicluna, MBE, MA, FSA (Honorary Fellow), Villa St Martin, Malta.	1959
Henry Cook Young Scobbie, MA, 12 Atholl Gardens, Dunkeld, Perthshire.	1973
Thomas Inglis Storie, 6 Park Terrace, Hawick, Roxburghshire.	1979
John Taylor, Collegehill House, Roslin, Midlothian.	1930
Ms Caroline Wallace, MA, 22 Edgehill Road, Broomhill, Glasgow.	1980
James Cumming Wallace, MA, 9 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh.	1950
William James Webster, 61 Firthview Drive, Inverness.	1974
James Whitton, CA, 6 St Colme Street, Edinburgh.	1949
Rev I R Young, Plantation Cottage, Fox Road, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire.	1952

*Communications.* The following short papers were read:

- 'A Clyde cairn at Edinchip, Perthshire' by J L Davidson, BEM, FSA Scot.  
 'Long cairns and recent field survey in northern Scotland' by R J Mercer, MA, FSA, FSA Scot.  
 'Excavation of the stalled cairn, Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney' by Mrs A Ritchie, BA, PhD, FSA, FSA Scot.