

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING held in the Library on *Friday, 30 November 1984*, at 4.00 pm, S MAXWELL, MA, President, in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. P R Ritchie and J L Davidson were appointed scrutineers for the Ballot for Office-Bearers.

ANNUAL REPORT

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

It is paradoxical that much of this report chronicles the satisfactory completion of another routine year in the life of the Society, which continues internally in a state of well-being, while the final paragraphs carry notice of a momentous and sad event which threatens to alter the basis of the Society's relationship with the National Museum of Antiquities.

Membership

Our Society is its Fellows, and the Society can only be as strong as its membership. It is therefore gratifying to report that once again there is a net increase in the number of Fellows on the Roll. New Fellows joining during the year 1983–84 numbered 149, while deaths, resignations and lapses accounted for 72, a net increase of 77. The roll now stands at 2257, including 20 Honorary Fellows.

We take pleasure in having recently elected to Honorary Fellowship Dr R G Cant, former President of the Society and distinguished historian, Professor P-R Giot, the tireless French prehistoric archaeologist who has done so much for the archaeology of Brittany, Professor George Jobey, whose recent series of Rhind Lectures well illustrated his monumental fieldwork contribution to the study of early settlement between Tyne and Forth, and Dr Margaret Stewart, whose lifetime's work on and for the archaeological heritage, historic and prehistoric, of Perth, Perthshire and East Scotland in general has made her name synonymous with archaeology throughout that part of Scotland.

The Society had the opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of one of its very first Honorary Fellows, the great French 18th-century encyclopaedist Diderot, who was the subject of an international conference in Edinburgh in the summer of 1984. Together with the National Museum of Antiquities the Society gave the opening reception of the conference to mark this historic connection.

Treasurer's Report

The year ending June 1984 once again finds the Society in a healthy and stable position financially speaking, with a surplus on our Receipts and Payments account of £1518. Tax recovered under Deeds of Covenant has shown yet a further increase to £3267 due entirely to the efforts of your Assistant Treasurer, Mrs Meldrum, and it is much to be hoped that this trend will continue. Once again I draw all Fellows' attention to the benefits that the Society can derive solely at the expense of H M Treasury as a result of Covenanted subscriptions. As predicted in 1983, the income from Interest and Dividends has fallen quite sharply from £8765 to £6109 (a fall of 27%) which reflects simply the changing condition of the Stock Market and Interest Rates over the last year. The increase in our assets from £88040 to £101099 should not lead to undue elation as this enhanced sum includes a substantial increase in the Monograph Series Account which sum, while appearing in the Society's accounts, is held 'in Trust' for the Scottish Development Department. It will be noted that once again the Society has increased substantially the funds that it has made available for Excavation and Research from £3555 to £5291 including a Special Transfer from the General Fund of £1000 which, however, should not be seen as a standard increase but as a reflection of the Society's response to the very high calibre indeed of the 1984 applications to the Fund. It is hoped, however, to continue the present level of funding in 1985. It will also be noted that the resuscitated Publications Fund now shows a balance at the year end of over £4000 which, of course, will be carried forward towards the cost of the next volume of our *Proceedings*. It is to be hoped that the institution of this fund will attract external provision as well, of course, as holding its own interest accrual thus rendering our publication programme more secure. I am very happy indeed to report that the Society is probably the only organization in Scotland to see a further reduction in its salary bill during the financial year, reflecting greater efficiency on the part of our splendid staff whilst all other figures of expenditure exhibit an admirable stability. A study carried out by Mrs Meldrum at Council's request to investigate the necessity for a subscription rise has shown pretty conclusively that no such rise will be necessary in 1985. I am also able to report that Miss McKechnie has left a legacy of £2000 to the Society for expenditure in an unspecified manner and that Mrs Wilson has left a legacy of £500 to be made across to us next January. In addition the parents of a deceased Fellow are intending to make a payment to us of \$50 per annum. Of such bequests is the basis of our ability to further the study of Scotland's past, and while wishing that we should all live for ever the Treasurer earnestly asks Fellows to consider a gift of this kind.

Meetings

The Society's ordinary meetings have followed their usual pattern since the last Anniversary Meeting, continuing from December until April, and resuming in October. Once again the range of the subjects of the papers read was as typically broad as it was chronologically long. An extra halfday meeting took place on 17 November, when three papers on medieval settlement were read.

This has been a year in which a Norwegian Lindsay-Fischer lecturer has visited us. Our visitor was Mr Hans-Emil Lidén who lectured both in Edinburgh and in Aberdeen on the architectural history and complexity of Trondheim Cathedral. The second Buchan Lecture, funded from the Society's Regional Fund, was hosted by the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll, and took place in Inverary. Mr P Addyman, Director of the York Archaeological Trust, lectured on 'Viking York, Scotland, and the North British Trade' to an audience drawn from a large part of the west of Scotland. Plans are already in hand for two Buchan Lectures in the new session just beginning. The Rhind Lectures for 1983-84 were given by Professor J J Wilkes, who took as his subject 'The Danube Frontier of the Roman Empire'.

An excursion is a meeting on the move, and so may be appropriately introduced into this part of the report. Mrs Edwina Proudfoot arranged and guided an excursion to a wide variety of sites and buildings in Fife on 26 May. Sites visited ranged from the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites at Balfarg and Balbirnie to the recently restored Rossend Castle and the medieval church at Aberdour.

North-East Section

There are now 201 members of the NE Section. In the session 1983-4 the lectures were all repeats of those given in Edinburgh on the previous evening. There were also four excursions, to the Keig area to see the Barmkyn and two recumbent stone circles, to the Peterhead area to see Longhaven granite quarries, to the Old Meldrum area to see a number of prehistoric and medieval sites, and to Dunottar Castle to see the excavations by Professor Alcock. At the Annual General Meeting a number of short papers were given by members, and the following were elected to the Committee: Chairman, Dr A A Woodham; Vice-Chairman, I A G Shepherd; Secretary, A Hidalgo; Treasurer, W A Taylor; Committee members, Miss A Baird, Mrs H B Dransart, G R Esslemont, G Leiper and G Steele.

Research

Once again it is gratifying to be able to report that the Society was able to find an increased sum for research in the first year in which Mr Lionel Masters has been the Convener of the Research Committee. For the first time in the Society's history more than £5000 was disbursed to the following: R J Mercer, for archaeological field survey in Caithness; S J Dockrill, for geophysical survey of Tofts Ness, Sanday, Orkney; C C Richards, for intensive survey of the prehistory of a transect on Mainland, Orkney; J R Sherriff, for detailed recording of field monuments in Angus; T L Affleck, for survey and trial excavation of Mesolithic sites at Starr, Loch Doon, Galloway; A Clarke, for research on the use of bloodstone in prehistoric Scotland; A Ritchie, for post-excavation work on the chambered cairn at Holm of Papa Westray North, Orkney; G J Barclay, for trial excavation of cropmark enclosures at North Mains, Strathallan, Perthshire; T F Watkins, for the excavation of three enclosures at the cremation cemetery at Rullion Green, Midlothian; E J Peltenburg, for excavation at Kildonan dun, Argyll; W S Hanson, for planning and extracting timber for dendrochronological dating at Erskine crannog in the Clyde; Colleen E Batey, for excavation at the Earl's Bu, Orkney; L Alcock, for excavation at Dunottar Castle, Grampian; Rosemary J Cramp, for excavation at the Hirsell, Berwickshire; C E Lowe, for survey at St Mary's Church and of architectural fragments elsewhere on Rousay, Orkney; Catherine M Brooks, for assistance with the preparation of publication of medieval pottery from Coulston kiln, E Lothian; Elaine Finnie, for a study of estate papers to complement the field record of medieval and post-medieval platform-buildings in Eskdale; D H Caldwell, for excavation of a gun position at Eyemouth artillery fort, Berwickshire; Lesley Macinnes, for research on Roman finds from non-Roman sites; J R Hunter, for archaeological survey of Fair Isle; G J Barclay, for study of food residues in beakers and food vessels.

This is a suitable place to remark that the Society's funds in aid of research have increased over the years at a rate which well exceeds the rate of inflation and more rapidly than the Society's income has grown. It has for a number of years been the deliberate policy of Council to increase the amount

available for sponsoring research, and we now have a fund from which sums of real usefulness can be offered in aid of a number of research projects. Research funds benefit more and more each year from the investment of the £10 paid by each new Fellow who joins us. We have also set up a Bicentenary Research Fund, but we have benefited most from bequests. Although the Research Committee has ten times more to disburse than it handled only a few years ago, it goes without saying that there are still worthy applications which are reluctantly turned down altogether, and the grants awarded are often less than the sums sought. The Research Committee has to perform an unenviable task in tailoring its enthusiasm for the shortlisted projects to its restricted cloth. Undoubtedly we should still find the same difficulty if the funds available were £10000, but the Research Committee would welcome the challenge. Certainly there are urgent projects and eager researchers, and equally certainly in the last year or two the extent to which fieldwork has been funded by Government rescue archaeology funds has been seriously reduced.

Publication

Volume 112 of the *Proceedings* has appeared, and it proved to be another weighty tome. Volume 113 also appeared, in early November, and it proved to be an even mightier tome. From this point Fellows may expect to see the beginnings of the effect of the change in publication policy: there will be a gradual reduction in the number of printed pages as detailed excavation (and other) reporting is published in accompanying microfiches. The result should be a slimmer, more manageable volume which is easier to read, better to use for research, and cheaper to produce.

With the publication of Dr Fairhurst's work at Crosskirk Broch the *Monograph Series* has reached Volume 3. The Society is grateful to the Highlands and Islands Development Board for a grant in aid of the cost of producing this volume, which has now gone on sale to Fellows at £14.90, and to non-Fellows at £17.00. Other monographs are already well advanced in preparation; and the financial arrangement with the Scottish Development Department for the joint funding of future publication of rescue excavations in this series has been re-negotiated, offering the prospect of greater flexibility, and even of publications which are not related to rescue archaeology projects.

The Society and the future of the National Museum

It has been reported in the past that Council often spends a good deal of its time considering matters at the invitation of other bodies who seek the views or advice of the Society. Some time ago Council offered its views to the Williams Committee on the paramount need to make proper provision for the National Museum. When the Williams Committee reported to the Secretary of State for Scotland, once again Council added its voice to support the main recommendation of the report, namely that the most pressing need among the national museums and galleries of Scotland was the long overdue provision of proper facilities for the housing and curating of the national collection of Scottish antiquities.

The future of the National Museum has been an item on the agenda of almost every meeting of Council for the last year. Council noted with alarm the publication of Government plans to put the Royal Scottish Museum and the National Museum under a single Board of Trustees and a single Director; and the opportunity was sought yet again to make the point that a proper national museum for Scotland's culture and heritage was of pressing importance. The post of Director of the Royal Scottish Museum was advertised and filled on the explicit assumption that the appointee would become the Director of both museums or their unitary successor.

In due course the President and Secretary were invited to meet the Chairman of the Museums Advisory Board, set up by the Secretary of State to work out plans for the implementation of Government policy in relation to the Royal Scottish Museum and the National Museum. But before that meeting took place, and shortly before the Queen's Speech at the opening of the new session of Parliament, an official at the Scottish Education Department wrote to our Assistant Secretary to inform her that the Secretary of State for Scotland had come to an important decision regarding the composition of the new Board of Trustees for the joint museums. The Queen's Speech let it be known that a bill to be called the National Heritage (Scotland) Bill would be introduced.

The Scottish Education Department letter reported that the National Heritage (Scotland) Bill would provide for the replacement of the present Board of Trustees of the National Museum by a new, smaller Board of Trustees for the joint museums. We were also informed that the new Board would

consist entirely of Government appointees. The reasons for this extraordinary decision, which threatens to sever unilaterally the links between the Society and the National Museum and its collections, were offered in the same letter: 'In view of the extremely diverse range of interests which the new Board of Trustees will cover and the difficulties which would be likely to arise in deciding between the numerous organizations which might be invited to submit nominations to the Board, Ministers have on balance decided against providing specific rights of nomination to any body or organization'.

Since the new Board is intended to replace the existing Board in the autumn of 1985, unless the Secretary of State can be persuaded to change his mind or the Government's proposed legislation fails, by the next Anniversary Meeting this Society will have ceased to enjoy any formal link with the Scottish national collections which this Society began and for which it has cared in different ways for more than 200 years. Council has of course asked the Secretary to remonstrate with the Scottish Education Department and the Scottish Office in an attempt to have this decision reconsidered; and it has decided that the Society should do all that it can to ensure that the Scottish national collections, the Society's former library and the National Museum's staff remain a recognizable, working entity, and that they are not dissolved and submerged in a clumsy but administratively convenient monolith.

The President said that he would like to add something to what the Secretary said in his Annual Report. The National Heritage (Scotland) Bill has already passed its second Reading. Other interests than this Society will have a part in fashioning the new Museum. It remains fundamental for the Society to ensure that our past contribution in funding and nurturing the Museum, and our present contribution of lectures and research grants and the *Proceedings*, with their close connection with the Museum's activities, and our contribution to the Library, that all these are recognized, and that we can continue to have our offices and our lecture room as the physical evidence of our continuing link with whatever form the new Museum takes.

Several Fellows spoke in support of the President's comments and after discussion it was agreed that, as plans for the new museum are well advanced, the Fellowship should be circularized promptly with the relevant part of the Annual Report which Fellows would be urged to use in writing to their MPs. The Secretary said that a statement would be made to the press early in the following week.

Dr R B K Stevenson asked Council to consider increasing the annual subscription next year to allow more money to be spent on research and particularly on helping the Museum maintain the quality of the library by continuing purchase of foreign books. The Secretary pointed out that the future of the library is uncertain.

Fellows expressed satisfaction at the growth of the North-East Section, and appreciation of the Regional Fund providing the Buchan Lectures.

The Secretary's Report was adopted on the motion of Dr N Fojut seconded by Mrs S Grossmith, the Treasurer's Report on the motion of J P Shepherd seconded by Dr D H Caldwell.

THE BALLOT

The scrutineers found and declared 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>	Professor B Proudfoot, BA, PhD, FSA, FRSE J G Dunbar, MA, FSA
	Dr D J Breeze, BA, PhD, FSA
<i>Councillors</i>	R Fawcett, BA, PhD, FSA Mrs H Murray, BA, PhD J B Stevenson, BA, FSA, MIFA M T Williams, BE P J Ashmore, BSc, FSA Mrs E Beaton, BA Mrs L J Main, MA J G Scott, BA

Secretary
Treasurer
Ex-Officio Members of
Council

D V Clarke, BA, PhD, FSA
R M Emerson, BA
Mrs D M Reynolds, MA, MIFA
Miss C R Wickham-Jones, MA, MIFA
T F Watkins, BA, PhD, FSA
R J Mercer, MA, FSA, MIFA
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, FSA, MIFA (Editor)

THE ROLL

The record of deaths of the following Fellows intimated during the year 1983–4 was not read at the meeting:

	<i>Elected</i>
Mrs Betty Annetta Brack, 17 Lockharton Gardens, Edinburgh.	1979
Erling J F Clausen, FRGS, Solstrand, Lerwick, Shetland.	1941
Miss Hilda M Connor, OBE, 28 Greenbank Drive, Edinburgh.	1952
Joseph Clark Davidson, MB, ChB, DMRE, 12 Kersland Street, Glasgow.	1971
James C Duffus of Dalclaverhouse, FRSA, 68 New Cavendish Street, London.	1936
Dr John Ferrier, Kilblane, Langbank, Renfrewshire.	1961
George Gilchrist, 6 Station Road, Annan.	1963
William Macfarlane Gray, OBE, FCCA, FCIS, JP, 12 Park Avenue, Stirling.	1981
Miss Falba Love Johnson, MA, MS, BA, 201 Willcox Avenue, Marion, South Carolina, USA.	1962
Harold Kirkpatrick, 29 Betley Hall Gardens, Betley, Crewe, Cheshire.	1973
Miss F B Kneen, MRAI, Ballamoar House, Ballaugh, Isle of Man.	1922
Miss A C Methven, 21 Eglinton Crescent, Edinburgh.	1960
The Hon Lord Migdale, MA, Ospisdale, Dornoch, Sutherland.	1927
Rev William Paul Monteath, MA, St Andrews Manse, Stranraer.	1964
William Rutherford Munro, BSc, Braedownie, 96 Forfar Road, Dundee.	1972
Donald John Macdonald of Castleton, 1 Calligary, Ardvasar, Sleat, Isle of Skye.	1973
Miss Catherine B MacKechnie, MA, 59 Polwarth Street, Glasgow.	1964
James Suttie Nicoll, AIB Scot, Clydesdale Bank Ltd, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire.	1970
Archibald Quail, 2 Endrick Drive, Paisley, Renfrewshire.	1978
Donald Robertson, PO Box 2425, Escondido, California, 92025, USA.	1975
Henry Clark Stewart, MC, Netherton, Wellside Place, Falkirk.	1950
Miss Jessie B Webster, MA, 15 Osborne Drive, Belfast.	1946
Rev Anthony John Whitaker, M Theol, Dip Ed, ABTI, The Officers Mess, RAF Bruggen, BFPO 25.	1980
Miss Edith Mary Wightman, Department of History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.	1972
Mrs Elise Margaret Wilson, BA, 59 Reres Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee.	1971
1st Lt Marc Toncray Wood, CE, MSM, Box 1131, Alfred, NY 14802, USA.	1982

The retiring President paid tribute to the retiring Councillors, he thanked the staff for their support for the last three years, and he thanked the Society for the honour they had done him. He introduced the new President and bestowed on him the presidential medal.

Professor Alcock thanked the Fellows for electing him President which he felt to be a great honour. He thanked Mr Maxwell for his work for the Society especially in leading the fight to preserve many of the privileges which seem due to the Society for all it has done for the study of archaeology and history of Scotland, and he endorsed the view that Fellows should write to their MPs and to the Secretary of State.

COMMUNICATION

The following paper was read:

'Prince Charles Edward Stuart's silver travelling canteen, a brief account', by G R Dalgleish, MA, FSA Scot.