

## ANNIVERSARY MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING held in the Library on *Monday, 1 December 1986*, at 4.00 pm, Professor L Alcock, MA, FSA, FRSE, FRHistS, President, in the Chair.

Mr J G Dunbar was appointed chief scrutineer for the Ballot for Office-Bearers, with Mr G R Dagleish, Dr R K Marshall and Mr G H G Tilling scrutineers.

The President invited Dr R B K Stevenson to introduce a paper (which had been circulated to the Fellows present and was read by the President) drawing attention to the forthcoming sale of Traprain Law, and suggesting that the President and Council should write to the Secretary of State for Scotland pointing out the great archaeological importance of the site and requesting that it be purchased by the National Heritage Fund for permanent protection by State Guardianship. After discussion adoption of the proposal was unanimously agreed.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary read the following *Annual Report*:

### Membership

It is very gratifying to be able to report yet again that in the year under review the net membership has continued to rise. While new Fellows seek entry to our Society we may feel confident that those things in which the Society is deeply interested are not minority irrelevancies but are of increasing importance to a growing number of people. We may also feel happy that we are able to share the advantages of Fellowship in our Society more widely, and that the declared purpose of the Society, namely to pursue and foster 'the study of the *ANTIQUITIES AND HISTORY OF SCOTLAND*', is being achieved. While quantity is no substitute for quality, it is now more and more important that the Society is strong in numbers and active in interest: the archaeological heritage is a 'diminishing resource', and there are urgent needs to act now in the location, recording and analysis of remains which may not be available to another generation. It is also a fact that few will heed the wise words of a tiny group of genteel scholars, especially when they do not wish to hear what is being said: but wise words can be backed with strength, and even government ministers will listen if they find that a particular view is not only sensible but widespread. During the past session 198 new Fellows and 4 Honorary Fellows were elected, while 136 names have been removed from the roll through death, resignation or lapse of subscription. The net increase of 65 Fellows brings the total on the Roll to 2430, including 19 Honorary Fellows.

### Meetings

The familiar rhythm of ordinary meetings in the Library was maintained from the last Anniversary Meeting until April, resuming after the summer break in October. The last Annual Report unfortunately omitted to report the annual day-conference, which took place in the autumn of 1985 under the direction of Mr John Barber, and which took as its theme the closer integration of all kinds of environmental research into archaeological fieldwork. Within the year under review Mr Gordon Maxwell, together with Dr W S Hanson and Dr I B M Ralston, organized a day-conference which was held on 10 May. The title was 'The Sky's the Limit: a decade of archaeological air photography in Scotland', and the purpose was to survey and assess the great wealth of new information which has been won through aerial survey and photography over the last decade, during which there has been some attempt to systematize for the first time aerial survey work.

In the year under review it was the Society's turn to receive a Norwegian visitor to give the Lindsay-Fischer lecture. Dr Martin Blindheim of the University Museum of National Antiquities in Oslo lectured on 'The Romanesque Parish Churches of Norway' and 'The Stave Church builders' graffiti'; as has already become the tradition he lectured both in Edinburgh and to the North-East section in Aberdeen. The Rhind Lecturer was Dr Peter Kidson who spoke on 'Cathedrals of the Middle Ages'. Once again the excursion took a unique form for a unique occasion. The large-scale rescue excavation of the recently discovered Roman fort at Elginhaugh outside Dalkeith in Midlothian provided the opportunity; Dr W S Hanson, who has directed the project, gave an introductory talk in the Library on the morning of the visit in order to prepare the two full coach-loads of Fellows and their friends for their tour of the excavations in the afternoon. From our Regional Fund we have sponsored another Buchan Lecture, held in Forres and organized by the Moray Field Club. Mr John Hume spoke on 'The Industrial Archaeology of Moray', and afterwards led a field trip.

### The North-East Section

The Section held eight meetings to hear the same lecture programme as given in Edinburgh, and in addition at its Annual General Meeting in May was pleased to welcome the President who spoke on 'Early fortifications, excavations at Dunnottar and Urquhart Castles'. Four excursions took members to see the excavations at the deserted medieval burgh at Rattray, Terpersie Castle and the Knockespock House symbol stone, sites in Howe of Cromar, and Towie Barclay Castle.

A presentation was made to Dr A A Woodham, who was instrumental in setting up the Section in 1969, to commemorate his service to the Society and in particular to the Section. The following were elected to the Committee: Chairman, I A G Shepherd; Vice-Chairman, G Leiper; Secretary, A Hidalgo; Treasurer, W A Taylor; members, C Barclay, Mrs H B Dransart, J Inglis, G Steele, Mrs K W Stewart, Miss J Stones, R A Watt. The membership of the Section is about 223.

### Research

Our Society furthers its purpose of fostering the study of Scotland's archaeological and historical heritage through the direct communication of the results of research at the programme of meetings and conferences, through the publication of our *Proceedings* and the newer *Monograph Series*, and through its funding of research. Over recent years Council and the Research Committee have spent much effort on ways to increase the scale of the Society's funds to aid research, recognizing that the nature of the need for funding has been changing, and that the volume of funds available was simply inadequate. Traditionally the Society's research funding has been drawn from the income from bequests, and the core of the funds available to the Research Committee is still committed investment income. From time to time the Society's research funds benefit from further bequests, but Council has taken positive steps to build the funding for research at a faster rate. The invested entry monies paid by new Fellows on election produces of course a steadily increasing income which now closely approaches £1200 each year, almost 20% of the money committed to the sponsorship of research. In addition over recent years a portion of the Society's general fund has been put into the funds available to the Research Committee. In effect then, a small portion of each Fellow's annual subscription is being spent directly on research. Exactly how varied that research is can be judged from the annual list of projects to which grants have been made; but the simple list cannot convey how urgent a number of these projects are. The following have received grants in the year 1985-86: Excavation of a multi-period site, Kinloch, Rhum (C Wickham-Jones); Excavation of a dun, Loch Olavat, North Uist (I Armit); Excavation at Barochan Hill Roman Fort, Renfrewshire (L J F Keppie); Excavation

at the putative Roman Fort, Easter Galcantray, Moray (I Keillar); Excavation of Earl's Bu, Orphir, Orkney (C E Batey); Study and consolidation of a bastle-house, Glenochar, Elvanfoot, Lanarkshire (T Ward); The Orkney survey project (C C Richards); Field survey, Strathnaver, Sutherland (J Redgate); Continuation of the survey of chambered cairns in Caithness (J L Davidson and A S Henshall); Fieldwork on cup-and-ring stones and ring cairns in Angus (J R Sherriff); Field survey on Eigg (P Wade-Martins); C14 dating, Erskine Crannog, Strathclyde (W S Hanson); Post-excavation work, Cullykhan promontory fort, Banffshire (J C Greig); Post-survey work, Fair Isle Survey (J R Hunter); Catalogue of Scottish prehistoric skeletal material (K J McSweeney); Investigation of the metallurgy and construction of late Bronze-Age bronze vessels (J P Northover and S I M Gerloff).

The Chalmers-Jervise prize was awarded to Mr P Topping for his essay on 'Pottery and chronology in the Iron Age of the Western Isles'. The award of Bursaries for Young Fellows was introduced this year, its purpose to enable them to read papers at Conferences. Awards were made to Mr N M Cameron for 'Romanesque Sculpture at Dunfermline Abbey', to Mr S T Driscoll for 'Power and Authority in Early Historic Scotland – Pictish Stones and Other Documents', to Dr M R Nieke for 'Literacy and Power: The introduction and use of writing in Early Historic Scotland', and to Miss C Wickham-Jones for 'Lithic Resources in Prehistoric Scotland'. The first paper was given to the British Archaeological Association in Edinburgh, the others to the World Archaeological Congress in Southampton.

### Publication

Unexpected difficulties have delayed the publication of volume 115 which is now expected in February 1987. The fourth volume in the *Monograph Series, Excavations on the Brough of Birsay* by J R Hunter, was published in late October. Editorial work on Monograph 5 is well advanced, and there are a number of important reports under preparation which will keep the momentum of the series going.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer read the following *Treasurer's Report*:

This year has seen the Society reach a turning point in its affairs which has demanded an upgrading of its financial base. The £10 annual subscription has been maintained for nearly a decade, a remarkable feat in a period when money has sunk to less than half its initial value, and at a period when the ambitions and responsibilities of the Society have advanced by leaps and bounds.

When our subscription rose to £10 in 1977, our expenditure upon our *Proceedings* (Vol 106) was £8668 (to be set against the estimated cost of £25 832 for Vol 115, a multiplication factor of 3) and our expenditure upon Research and Excavation in the same year was £655 (to be compared with £5629 in 1986, a multiplication factor of 8.5). Other aspects of our work would show similar increases.

That we have been able to maintain this real growth has been due to three principal factors, most important of which is the very substantial increase in our fellowship, stimulated, I imagine, by the breadth of our interests, and the amazingly good value of our subscription. Secondly, high interest rates have enabled us to maximize the income from our investments while maintaining a steady growth in their market value. Thirdly, and by no means least, the energy of our Assistant Treasurer, who has brought our covenanted income to unparalleled heights and who has managed the day to day running of our affairs with singular acumen.

May I commence a review of the 1986 accounts by turning straight away to the bottom line? The surplus for the year on the General Fund has slipped from £3221 in 1985 to £426 in 1986. Surpluses in the other funds (Publication, Excavation and Research) are also reduced or stable at a low level. There must lie the justification for your Council's decision to raise the subscription from £10 to £15 with effect from July 1986. That rise has been restrained to £15 in order not to discourage that flow of new fellows that are the Society's life-blood and this restriction will almost certainly mean that another ten-year plateau for our subscription will be difficult to sustain.

This welcome increase in fellowship has brought with it its own problems. The management of the Society's affairs, posted circulations, distribution of the *Proceedings* etc., have all become tasks of far greater complexity and sheer work, which in turn cost more money. The stage has been reached where a fundamental reorganization of the Society's administration is now being designed, and this in turn will require capital investment and enhanced costs whence should flow even greater efficiency at less cost in human terms. The first stage of this reorganization accounts for the major increase in salary costs from

£7605 to £12 461, which forms such a prominent feature of our General Fund expenditure in this financial year.

Essentially linked to this process is the notable increase in printing and stationery costs (£1254 in 1985 to £2392 in 1986) and postage (£1377 in 1985 to £1788 in 1986). The only other notable increases in expenditure lie in the expenses of the North-East Scotland Section where crisis presented itself in the form of the need for a new projector. This year has also seen an increase of £1157 in our allotment to Research and Excavation, half of which was in the form of an increased transfer from our General Fund. Furthermore, should our estimate for the cost of Vol 115 prove correct, we face an increase of nearly £2000 in the cost of our *Proceedings*. The lower grant from the General Fund to the Publication Fund this year was quite clearly a recognition of surplus in the latter fund and the parlous position of our general surplus and really should be made good in some manner in the coming financial year.

The *Monograph Series* account is in a relatively healthy state in balance (in the Society's name) to the tune of £5226. We still await the bill for Vol 4. Nevertheless, the Society should be securely in a position to handle an oncoming Monograph at least equal in size and complexity to any yet published under the new '75% straight grant' rules negotiated with the SDD.

It should be noted that our investments in Charibond and Charifund Units show a handsome increase in market value (£39 452 to £49 871) in the financial year under review, thus helping to maintain the capital value of the Society's base resources.

Our estimates for 1986-87 show our surpluses well re-established with the new subscription rate. In the next year capital expenditure and staff-change costs may eat heavily into these surpluses but thenceforward, hopefully, the Society can look forward to a further period of stability in which to foster and develop its interests.

The Annual Report was adopted on the motion of Dr D J Breeze seconded by Mr J B Stevenson.

#### THE BALLOT

In the ballot for the election of Council members, the result of the first count showed a tie for the fifth place; the subsequent re-count resulted in the election of the following Fellows: C J Burnett; Dr P J Dixon; Professor E C Fernie; A D Foxon and R B Gourlay.

Council for the ensuing year to be as follows:

<i>President</i>	Professor L Alcock, MA, FRSE, FRHistS, FSA
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	D J Breeze, BA, PhD, FSA A Fenton, CBE, BA, MA, DLitt, FRSE, FSA T F Watkins, BA, PhD, FSA
<i>Councillors</i>	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 Miss J A Stones, MA C J Burnett, O St J, DA, AMA P Dixon, BA, PhD, MIFA Professor E C Fernie, BA, FSA A D Foxon, MA R B Gourlay, MA, MIFA
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs A Ritchie, 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) L J Masters, BA, FSA (Convener of the Research Committee) M T Williams, BE (Convener of the Finance and Administration Committee)
<i>Assessors</i>	R D Cramond, MA, MBIM (Representative of the Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland) R G W Anderson, BSc, MA, DPhil, FRSC (Director of the National Museums of Scotland)

Miss D Idiens, BA (Keeper of History and Applied Arts, National Museums of Scotland)  
 J Hogarth, MA (Representative of the Friends of the National Museums of Scotland)

## THE ROLL

The record of the deaths of the following Fellows, intimated during the year 1985–86, was not read at the meeting:

	<i>Elected</i>
Reverend Alfred J Armour, Drumhead House, Finzean, Banchory	1947
Miss Isabel Brown, Dipple, Fochabers, Moray	1956
George Draffen of Newington, MBE, O St J, FRHistS, Meadowside, Balmullo, St Andrews, Fife	1980
Miss Grace Elliot, MBE, FSMC, Padgepool House, Wooler, Northumberland	1960
Horace Fairhurst, MA, PhD, FSA, Hopefield, Lamash, Isle of Arran	1936
Harold Victor Feehan, BComm, FPS, AFAIM, 17 Winston Drive, Doncaster 3108, Victoria, Australia	1984
George Fowler, MPS, 25 Greenmore Gardens, Aberdeen	1970
The Right Hon The Earl of Haddington, KT, MC, TD, LLD, Tynninghame House, Dunbar, East Lothian (Honorary Fellow)	1945
William Halbert, BSc, ARCST, AMICHEM, 51 South Hamilton Street, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire	1970
Derek Pearson Harris, AE, 31 Acacia Road, Falmouth, Cornwall	1983
William Miller Jamieson, MB, ChB, LRCP & S, LRFDS, 22 Arran Crescent, Beith, Ayrshire	1970
Professor Konrad Jazdzewski, Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum, Lodz, Poland (Honorary Fellow)	1969
Anthony Lucas, MA, DLitt, FMA, Cois Coille, Bird Avenue, Clonskeagh, Dublin (Honorary Fellow)	1969
Frank Magee, JP, 10 Fountainhall Road, Aberdeen	1976
Mrs Edith Josephine Marnie, LRAM, Lon Fiodhaig, Letters, Loch Broom, Ross-shire	1969
Richard John Metz Merriman, 71 Bay Tree Road, London	1984
Donald G Moir, 2 Pentland Gardens, Edinburgh	1947
E L Campbell MacAlister, 42 Ventnor Drive, Totteridge, London	1959
J McNaught, MA, Kilneiss, Moniaive, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire	1954
Reverend Douglas Hogarth Hay Macnaughton, MA, BD, 61 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow	1968
Mrs Margaret W Macneill, MA, 45 Longbridge Road, Bramley, Basingstoke, Hampshire	1949
James Gordon Stewart Macphail, MA, Overton, West Road, Haddington, East Lothian	1964
Arthur Thatcher Roberts, Post Office Box 1260, Elizabethton, TN 37643, USA	1985
Dr Hamish Stuart Sloane, LRCP & S, LRSPSG, MRCGP, 180 Craigton Road, Glasgow	1970
Eric Smith, C St J, DMus, MMUS, RCM, FRCO, FTCL, 12 Kilmaurs Terrace, Edinburgh	1980
Ian R H Stewart, 11 Farquhar Road, Wimbledon Park, London	1925
Mrs Margaret E C Stewart, MA, PhD, Tempar, Dupplin Terrace, Kinnoull, Perth (Honorary Fellow)	1929
Hugh Whitehead, MRSA, 8 Court Street, Haddington, East Lothian	1978
Colonel Alistair Gordon Donald Whyte, CBE, MA, MB, ChB, FRCS, 21 Landale Road, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	1973
Kenneth Alexander Wood, MA, Inverdon, Balgownie Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen	1962
Edward Yeoman, 10 Loganlea Gardens, Edinburgh	1972

## THE RETIRAL OF THE SECRETARY

The President said that the Secretary was retiring after nine years in office. The Society has changed during this time and the amount of work has greatly increased. The main themes with which the Secretary has been concerned are the increased sponsorship of research, and in the early years the responsibilities for the Urban Archaeology Unit, The Aberdeen Archaeology Unit, and the Archaeological Field Surveyors; more recently the Society has been involved with Government consultations, the merger of the National Museum of Antiquities and the Royal Scottish Museum, and the protection of the Society's historic

privileges, the Society's responsibilities to all of which have been master-minded by the Secretary. The President recalled that it is largely due to the Secretary that the Society is now held in high regard by the Government. Council has persuaded him to serve on a new committee dealing with heritage and environmental matters, so he will continue to be active in the Society's affairs. The meeting was asked to thank Dr Watkins for his Secretaryship and to wish him well as Vice-President.

Dr Watkins said that he was deeply grateful for the Society's expression of thanks, and that he felt the opportunity to serve the Society had been an honour. He had worked under four remarkable Presidents who have given a great deal to the Society, and he felt the Society was forward-looking and energetic.

The President said it was hardly necessary to introduce the new Secretary, Dr Anna Ritchie, who has served as Editor and as a member of Council. He wished her a successful, happy and fruitful time as Secretary and thanked her for undertaking the task.

The President asked whether any Fellows wished to speak. Mr E H Nicoll asked if the Society had a policy regarding the blanket afforestation of upland areas of Scotland, and the need to record the structural remains which are being affected. The President said that this matter will be the priority of the new committee to which he had already referred, and letters from Fellows will be welcomed. Mr A Maxwell-Irving asked whether a news-sheet could be circulated to Fellows giving information on conferences, seminars, excavations etc, which are to be held by other bodies. The President said that his request will be passed to Council.

The President thanked the Keeper of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery for providing a room for the Fellows to gather for wine after the meeting.

#### COMMUNICATION

G H Evans, BA, MA, FSA Scot, addressed the meeting on 'The mace of St Salvator's College, St Andrews'.