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**PAPERS
AND PROCEEDINGS**
OF THE
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AND
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(ESTABLISHED 1885)
For the Study of the Natural History and Antiquities of
the County



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JOHN HAUTENVILLE COPE

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HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

AND

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Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society.

ANNUAL MEETING,

MAY 6TH, 1919.

THE Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting was held in the County Council Chamber, Winchester, on Monday, May 1st, at 2.15 p.m. The President, D. H. Scott, D.Sc., F.R.S., was in the chair.

The proceedings began with the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting (1918), after which the Hon. Secretary read the Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1918:

The Report which the Committee present for the past year is written in a tone of sadness, for never in the history of the Club has the hand of death removed so many prominent and useful Members. It would be impossible in a brief record like this to do justice to the memory of those who have passed away. The Winchester papers, however, have most ably summarized their work and usefulness, so that it remains only to mention how deeply we feel their loss and to refer to that part of their work which more intimately concerns ourselves.

The first to be removed from our midst was Mr. Norman C. H. Nisbet, A.R.I.B.A. His connection with this city was well known, and his activities outside were various. He was an able architect and a sound archæologist, whose assistance was sought by many Archæological Societies besides our own; and his merits were recognized by the Society of Antiquaries of London, who, though they did not elect him a Fellow, yet appointed him as their Hon. Local Secretary for Winchester. To ourselves he was invaluable. He once served as Vice-

President, but it was as Local Secretary for Winchester that he was best known. Once and often twice a year he arranged and conducted meetings in this city and its vicinity, while he was a constant attendant at other gatherings, and always ready to impart to us his great knowledge of our Hampshire churches. His place as an architect it will be difficult to fill, but the Committee ask you to elect to-day as the new Hon. Local Secretary for Winchester Mr. Reginald W. Hooley, F.G.S., a well-known and experienced exponent of Geological Science.

By the death of Dr. Harman the Club has lost a former Vice-President, and one whose charming personality made him known to all. A member for more than twenty years, he was always most regular in his attendance at our meetings, ready to give help at all times, and careful to avoid giving trouble. It is an open secret that he was the one who entertained the members to tea at the Annual Meeting, although his retiring nature made him stipulate that his name should not be mentioned.

Only three days after the death of Dr. Harman there was called from our midst the Rev. G. W. Minns, F.S.A., who, though not exactly one of the founders of the Club, joined immediately after it was started, and continued for the rest of his life to throw all his energies into it. It was at the second Annual Meeting in April, 1887, at the same time that your Hon. Secretary was appointed, that the late Mr. Shore handed to him some half-dozen MS. papers written by the members, asking him if he would see them through the Press in the form of a "modest pamphlet," at the same time expressing the hope that the pamphlet might be repeated from time to time. The "modest pamphlet" was duly printed, but under the able editorship of Mr. Minns it was not long before it assumed the title and importance of a "Volume of Proceedings," and obtained the position among the "Proceedings" of County Societies which it has ever since maintained. The Rev. G. W. Minns continued Editor until succeeded by Dr. Hearnshaw. He once filled the office of

Vice-President. At our meetings he was a tower of strength; always ready to place his learning at our disposal, whether in interpreting a Latin inscription or in making a speech.

Lastly, the Committee record with regret the death of Dr. Andrews, formerly of Basingstoke, and during the many years he resided there the Hon. Local Secretary for the district. He also served as a Vice-President. The excursions he arranged were numerous, always interesting, and well carried out. For some years past he lived at Elstree, but always visited Hampshire regularly, and retained his interest in the Club. He has left behind a mass of MS. notes relating to the county, which it is hoped will be placed at the disposal of our Editor, and some of the matter, at least, be published.

During 1918 the increasing difficulty in travelling prevented the holding of many meetings. They were not, however, suspended entirely, as was the case in many societies, and four were held—viz., At Shide and Newport, in the Isle of Wight, June 13th; at Winchester, on July 16th; at Holmsley, for Botanical Study, on July 31st; and a Fungus Foray at Lyndhurst, on October 2nd. The thanks of the Committee are tendered to Mr. Herbert Chitty, who kindly provided tea at Winchester College on July 16th.

The S.E. Union of Scientific Societies also held its Congress in London in June, which was attended by some of our members. The British Association did not meet, but will do so this year at Bournemouth from September 9th.

The Committee have resolved that any members who have resigned on account of the war, and who wish to be re-admitted, shall be allowed to do so within three months of the Annual Meeting without paying another entrance fee. They hope this will induce some members to come back. They also appeal for fresh members to join.

The question of the subject Secretariats has been considered by the Committee, and they recommend, as there is difficulty in finding members to take up this work, the subjects should be fewer in number, and may be confined to Botany, Geology, Entomology, and Ornithology. The inception of this branch of the Club's activities was due to the

late Mr. Pink and the late Dr. Andrews, who engaged to run the work themselves. The Committee have decided to ask the Annual Meeting to find someone who will appoint secretaries, so that the Hon. Secretary and Organizer of Excursions may not be troubled in the matter.

The President said he felt the Society would wish to give some expression of the loss they had suffered in the death of the four gentlemen of whom they had heard some account from the Hon. Secretary. Letters had been written to their families. All stood in silence in response to the invitation of the President.

The President then moved the adoption of the Annual Report, expressing his pleasure that they had managed to carry on during the war.

Mr. Burnett, the Hon. Treasurer, said the total receipts for the past year had been £109 1s. 5d., almost identical with those for the previous year (£109 10s. 9d.). They had received seven more entrance fees and nine more subscriptions, but the figures still left room for improvement. The issue of the "Proceedings" was a very difficult matter, and in view of the high cost he thought they were really very fortunate in being able to have such a creditable volume. Every effort was being made to increase the membership, and he appealed to the members to do their best to obtain new subscribers.

The reports and balance sheet were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Dr. Scott was re-elected President, and Mr. Herbert Chitty, Sir W. E. Foster, F.S.A., and Dr. Livesay Whitehead were re-elected Vice-Presidents, while Col. J. Holt Stilwell, V.D., was elected a Vice-President in succession to Mr. H. F. Rawstorne.

Mr. Hooley brought before the meeting Mr. W. Dale's offer of his archæological collection to the city of Winchester for £250, and asked members of the Club to assist by subscribing to the fund.

THE STONEHENGE EXCAVATIONS.

Some members suggested that an excursion to Stonehenge should take place. The Hon. Secretary, in reply, stated that

Mr. Chubb, to whom Stonehenge was sold for £6,000, had handed it over to the nation, so that it was now public property. H.M. Office of Works had taken over the ancient monument. The outer ring was in a very parlous condition, the stones being propped up. These were to be strengthened and placed upright. The Society of Antiquaries thought it was a great pity something else could not be done. Representatives of the Society were to take up their abode at Stonehenge and work with the Office of Works in the excavations, and see what was taken out. This work would go on every year until the whole of Stonehenge was properly explored, which was important, because, in the opinion of Sir Arthur Evans, it was a funereal monument as well as a Temple of the Sun.

EXHIBITS.

These included two palstaves found at Vernhams; flint flakes from Butser Hill; a bronze gouge, fibula, rings, pottery, coins, portion of a quorn, and other remains, from the British camp at Ashley, King's Somborne, sent by Mr. Legh Powell; a piece of pavement from Yateley Church, and some coins, shown by Mrs. Cope. Photographs of desilverized British lead, found last year at Clausentum, and now in the Tudor House at Southampton, were shown by Mr. Dale, who said it was of the time of the Emperor Vespasian; it consisted of two pigs of lead, weighing 166 lb. and 178 lb. respectively, and had probably been brought from the Mendips along the Roman road to Clausentum for shipment to Gaul. Mr. Westlake produced some photographs of the scenery in the Avon Valley near Fordingbridge, Godshill Wood, and Sandy Balls, threatened with destruction. The general opinion of the meeting was that this part of the country should be taken over by the "National Trust," so that it could be preserved from being built over.

After the meeting the members of the Club were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Cope. By permission of Mr. Barber, this was served in one of the Committee-rooms.

THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the Year ended the 31st December, 1918.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
To Balance brought forward from the Year 1917	...	...	44	14	7	By Subscription to the Congress of Archaeological Societies, from July 1st, 1917, to July 1st, 1918	...
" 19 Entrance Fees	...	...	4	15	0	" 250 Copies Earthworks Committee's Report	...
" Subscriptions received during the Year, viz. :—	...	...				" Subscription to Royal Society for Protection of Birds, 1918	...
3 for Year 1916	...	...	1	11	6	" General Printing, Stationery, etc., for 1918	...
24 " 1917	...	...	12	12	0	" 300 copies of Part II of Vol. VIII (on account)	...
152 " 1918	...	...	79	16	0	" Hon. Secretary—Expenses of Meetings and of Organizing Excursions	...
8 " 1919	...	...	4	4	0	" " —Fee to S.E. Union of Scientific Societies	...
" Interest on Deposit	...	...	98	3	6	" " —Expenses of attending Committees of S.E. Union of Scientific Societies	...
" Sale of " Proceedings "	...	...	15	9	0	" " —Expenses attending Committee of British Association, also of delegates of Societies in Union with British Association and in Union with the Society of Antiquaries	...
" Donations re Lithographed Copies of Mosaic Pavement at Grately, Hants—	...	...	3	5	2	" " —Fee to the British Association	...
Charles E. Keyser, Esq., J.P., D.L., M.A., F.S.A.	...	...	1	1	0	" " —Postages, etc.	...
Sir William Portal, Bart., D.L., F.S.A.	...	...	1	1	0	" Hon. Treasurer—Postages	...
			2	2	0	" " —Cheque Book	...
						" Assistant Secretary—Fee for 1918	...
						" " —Postages of " Proceedings " etc.	...
						" Cash at Bank—On Deposit	...
						" " —Current account	...
						" " —Less Cheques outstanding	...
							51 8 4
							£153 16 0

N.B.—The following Account was outstanding at December 31st, 1918—

Balance of Part II, Vol. VIII. £63 11s. 5d.

N.B.—The following Account was outstanding at December 31st, 1918—

Balance of Part II, Vol. VIII. £63 11s. 5d.

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) E. W. C. WHITTAKER, Incorporated Accountant,
Southampton, April 9th, 1919.

(Signed) FREDK. J. BURNETT
2, High Street, Southampton.
Hon. Treasurer.

**THE REVEREND G. W. W. MINNS,
LL.B., F.S.A.**

GEORGE WILLIAM WALTER MINNS was born at Norwich 23 April, 1837. The son of a builder, he had an inherited interest in craftsmanship and construction. His surroundings in a city full of ancient buildings turned this to a taste for antiquity, in which he was encouraged by such men as Husenbeth and Harrod, enthusiasts of the first flight of the Gothic revival, and especially by Francis Procter, the liturgiologist, to whom, on leaving Norwich Grammar School, he went to be prepared for the University. He entered St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, in 1855, and passed in 1859 to Cuddesdon, then quite a new foundation. At Cambridge he attended the lectures of Professor Willis, a great interpreter of medieval architecture, and began his lifelong habit of picking up old things of every kind. Meanwhile he was going round and sketching the famous churches of Norfolk, and had visited Holland.

Ordained in 1860, he found his first curacy in Berkshire, but soon went back to Norfolk to Burnham Overy, next door to Burnham Thorpe; to this may be put down his special interest in Nelson and Nelsoniana. The years 1863 to 1866 he spent mostly abroad in Normandy, Paris, and Italy, sketching and studying architecture. He came home in 1866, married, and after about a year at East Dereham left Norfolk in 1868. During these ten years he had been an active member of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society. His first essay in its publications was on a wall-painting he uncovered at Witton; he also wrote on acoustic pottery, a subject not yet completely elucidated; but he specialized on rood-screens and their paintings. His "Notes" were a real contribution to knowledge, and he furnished the text to Winter's excellent plates of Randworth Screen. If he had stayed in Norfolk,

he might have produced a comprehensive account of the whole subject ; even as late as 1908 he was selected to write " Chancel Screens and Roodlofts " for *Memorials of Old Norfolk*.

For nearly twenty years after he left Norfolk parochial and family duties, and the taking of pupils, took away George William Minns's attention from antiquities. After curacies at Englefield Green in Surrey, and St. James's, Piccadilly (where the antique-shops were a standing temptation), and the vicarage of Clayhill, Enfield, he settled down in 1879 as Vicar of Weston, Southampton. By 1887 his sons and his pupils were off his hands, and his small parish, though always fully worked, was not sufficient to absorb all his energies ; someone then described him as an oaktree planted in a flower-pot. He took up collecting for Foreign Missions and Church Education, and was ready to return to archæology.

The Hants Field Club had been founded in 1885 by Messrs. Shore, Dale, Woodhouse, Eyre, and Whitaker, and next year material for a " respectable pamphlet " had been got together. The post of editor was offered to George William Minns, and the " Papers and Proceedings " became his main secular business off and on for nearly thirty years. For Volumes I to IV (1885-1903) he was solely responsible. In the preface to the last he confessed to " declining energy," and wished to retire. In 1904 the Club, in recognition of his long service, gave him a handsome copy of Viollet le Duc's *Dictionnaire de l'Architecture Française*, ever after one of his most treasured possessions. But he was not allowed to give up altogether ; he was still associated with Professor F. J. C. Hearnshaw in the preparation of Volume V (1904-1906) ; and while the latter did Volume VI, he was collecting the papers by his friend Shore into the " Memorial Volume." Finally, he filled the gap left by Professor Hearnshaw's removal to London in 1910, and managed to produce a " Supplement " to Volume VI, the preface to which is dated May, 1914. Meanwhile, the regular Volume VII had begun to appear under the present editor. In that same year, 1914, George William Minns gave up his parish of Weston, and in

1916 moved to Winchester, where he spent three peaceful years before the end came, rather suddenly, on 15 February, 1919.

The course of George William Minns's interests may be traced in the titles of his papers. Living close to Netley Abbey, which he loved to expound though he never wrote about it, he was naturally drawn towards things monastic, especially the Cistercians. Mr. Eyre's paper on Godsfield turned his attention to the Hospitallers in Hampshire—so much so that on the formation of the Hampshire Record Society in 1888 he undertook to edit for it their Cartulary. In examining the original MS. of this at Welbeck, he came across the book of Titchfield Abbey records, containing the catalogue of the library, and this, too, he proposed to publish. Both these considerable undertakings he brought to within a short distance of completion; he prepared the texts, wrote the introductions, and made elaborate indices, but tasks which could not be put off, especially his editorship, denied him the leisure to master the materials he had collected. It is possible that some of his work on Godsfield will be utilized. He tried to get recognized specialists to take the Titchfield catalogue off his hands, but they let the years go by without advancing the work. Finally, his transcript, with an introduction by the present editor, was printed in Vol. VII, iii, and the notes he had amassed on various obscure entries may yet be arranged and published.

Titchfield, where he excavated in 1893, brought George William Minns to the Delmés and other Huguenots. These attracted him for the rest of his life, as he believed that his own family was descended from Protestant refugees. He was elected Vice-President of the London Huguenot Society, a distinction of which he was proud, as of his Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries, dating from 1892.

For the preservation of ancient buildings he was always ready to contend, *e.g.*, the guard-chamber by the West Gate and the oft-threatened Bargate, Southampton. His last archaeological work was to supply material for a paper on the pyx

dug up near Godsfield, read by Mr. Dale before the Society of Antiquaries in December, 1918.

As an editor, George William Minns was rather autocratic. If he dealt with contributors' copy in a way that they did not always like, they generally came round to admit that his changes were for the better, and he had hard work to establish and maintain a certain standard of scholarship and accuracy. Towards the latter, and in the matter of proof-reading, he was much helped by his devoted daughter. Punctuality in publication was beyond his or any man's powers. The early "Proceedings," before the Club obtained the services of professional draughtsmen, contain several of his sketches, rough but effective, in a style directly derived from Cotman and the Norwich School, of whom he had appreciative knowledge long before they became the fashion. He was a good enough linguist to get the full benefit of foreign travel, and visited most of the countries of Europe with a special eye to their architecture. In a word, he brought to the service of the Club a wide knowledge of antiquities, a certain readiness with tongue, pen or pencil, sound common sense, and a vigorous personality, and contributed not a little to its taking its due place among similar societies.

E. H. M.

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**THE LATE NORMAN C. H. NISBETT,
A.R.I.B.A.**

It is my sad duty as Editor to chronicle those who have passed away. To our sorrow, we have lost within the year two prominent members—the Rev. G. W. W. Minns, of whom a notice from the pen of his son appears in this number of the Proceedings; and Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett, whose death occurred at his residence, “Dalzell,” Winchester, on November 2nd, 1918, in his fifty-ninth year.

The son of the late Dr. R. I. Nisbett, of Gravesend, he was educated at King's College, London. Deciding to become an architect, he was “articled” in the Duke of Devonshire's Estate Office, Eastbourne, which he left to become a partner with the late Mr. Farrow, of Chancery Lane, London. The firm acquired the business of Mr. Pink, of Winchester, Mr. Nisbett coming to that city to take charge of the Winchester branch. This was the origin of his connection with the Cathedral town, and here he remained till his death. Later the firm amalgamated with Mr. Colson, of Jewry Street, Winchester, under the title of Colson, Farrow and Nisbett. On Mr. Farrow resigning membership, Mr. Colson and Mr. Nisbett continued in partnership, and on the decease of the senior partner, Mr. Nisbett carried on the practice alone. Perhaps he is best known as the surveyor of Winchester Cathedral, a post to which he brought not only his sound professional knowledge, but a keen love of antiquities. It was during the period that he held the surveyorship that the famous restoration was carried out by Sir Thomas Jackson. In addition, he was also one of the diocesan surveyors, and shortly before his decease was appointed surveyor to the College. He designed All Saints' Church, Eastleigh, and the English Church at Lucerne, Switzerland. Both in Winchester



NORMAN C. H. NISBETT, A.R.I.B.A.

THE REV. G. W. W. MINNS, LL.B., F.S.A

and also in the County of Hampshire he prepared plans for the erection of schools. Warnford Church, so well known for its Norman work, and Bosham Church, in Sussex, were restored under his supervision. He also carried out the restoration of other churches within our county. This work he always performed in a most "conservative spirit," so that the remark was made in one obituary notice "that if there had been more Mr. Norman Nisbetts there would have been less destruction in the country."

One other task which he accomplished, and one of great interest to all Hampshire people, was to direct the excavations at Wolvesey Castle. An account of this work, with a plan and illustrations, he contributed to the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club. Shortly after coming to reside in Winchester, he became a member of the Hampshire Field Club, and was a frequent attendant at the summer excursions, where his knowledge was in great request to describe the various churches, mansions, and other buildings visited by the Club.

His position as an architect—one of the foremost in the county—made him a leading member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architects Association, of which society he was the Honorary Secretary. But it is not only as an architect that Mr. Nisbett will be missed; he was a man of varied and wide tastes, one of the keenest and most active members of the Winchester Literary and Scientific Society. At the time of his death he was the Honorary Secretary of this body. Being an adept at heraldry, it is not surprising that when the Winchester pageant took place he was requested by the organizers to undertake the lead in this subject. Again, when the statue of King Alfred was erected in Winchester, to celebrate the millenary of that monarch, his co-operation was sought by the mayor, Mr. Alfred Bowker. It will be recollected that the statue was unveiled by Lord Rosebery.

This short notice will show how much he will be missed, not only in his public capacity, but also in private life. His unfailing courtesy endeared him to a very large circle of

friends, who will retain pleasant memories of his great kindness and friendship.

No sketch of his life, especially to Hampshire people, would be complete without mention of the articles he contributed to the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club, and these will demonstrate what a vast knowledge he possessed of the antiquities of our county. It is fortunate that his writings and sketches and designs are thus preserved, for these will be of great value to future generations of Hampshire archaeologists. The present Editor cannot close this account of Mr. Nisbett without recording how greatly he valued the advice and friendship of this member of the Field Club. From the day that Mr. Minns handed over the post of editor this advice and friendship was always generously given, and it will be a sad task to continue the work now that death has removed from our midst two such valuable contributors.