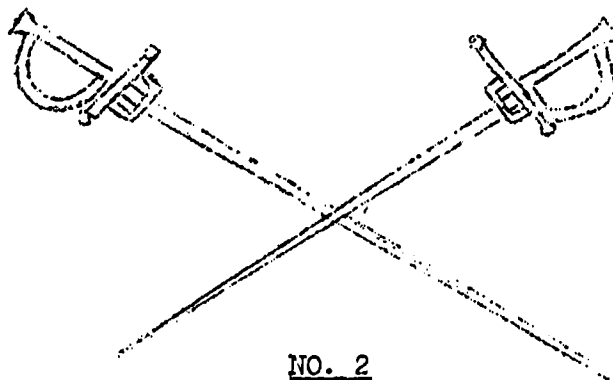


GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

LOCAL HISTORY BULLETIN

AUTUMN 1960



NO. 2

Presented by: -

THE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

of the

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1960

The Committee were pleased to find that the first issue of the Bulletin seems to have been of use to some of our readers and there is certainly an abundance of news and interesting material upon which to report in this issue. Apart from the Newsletter, four invited articles are included in this number and follow the Newsletter.

THE N.C.S.S. STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The Publications Sub-Committee report that they have copies in stock of the following pamphlets:-

A Selection of Books on English Local History
Notes on the Recording of Local History
Local History Exhibitions
How to Write a Parish Guide
Discovering the Past
Local History in Schools

They are issuing shortly a booklet entitled "Introducing Local History" and will probably reprint their "Handlist of Medieval Ecclesiastical Terms" now in short supply, and "A Short Account of the Armorial Bearings of the Sovereigns of England," which is out of print. These booklets are excellent helps to students and contain, in a condensed form and at a very low price, material which will save the worker many a long search. The Committee would welcome suggestions for future pamphlets which would not duplicate other published works and could be sold for 2/6 to 3/- a copy. All suggestions and enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Standing Conference for Local History, National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

The Council for British Archaeology is anxious that a survey should be made of Industrial Archaeological remains. We are apt to think of Archaeology as concerned with the remote past, with Long Barrows

or Roman Villas, with flints or Samian pottery. It has, however, been defined as the study of all objects made or used by Man which he had ceased to use and this applies to a nineteenth century cloth mill or cider press quite as definitely as to an Iron Age Camp or Elizabethan mansion. The recording of the more recent buildings may be far more urgent as the sites they occupy are often still of great commercial value and the older premises may be swept away to be replaced by newer enterprises. The Stroud Valley, as Miss Carus-Wilson reminded us in her fascinating article in the January number of the Economic History Review, became industrialised as early as the fifteenth century and some of the mill-sites may have a continuous history from this date. The Curator of the Stroud Museum is making a survey of the older industrial buildings within the limits of the watershed of the Frome and its tributaries and has written us a short article on this important work in which he invites co-operation from any reader who has time or information to offer.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Local History Committee are themselves specially interested in another side of this work. The fate of the Stroud Water Canal has sharply reminded us that it is high time that the memories of the older people in the County who have worked on the canals or whose lives have been largely shaped by the passage of the Canal traffic are recorded before it is too late. Mr. L.T.C. Rolt, whose biography of Isambard Brunel made that centenary of burning personal interest to so many of us, has kindly written us an appeal, "Who Knows", and we hope that readers will act on his suggestions and help us to build a living record of our waterways and the men who worked on them.

The Committee is hoping to be able to announce the result of the Schools Competition at the next meeting on December 9th. The Chief Librarian of Gloucester City Library is preparing a short book-list on County history which, it is hoped, will be of special benefit to new-comers to the district and beginners in the subject. The Committee intend to make this available as soon as possible.

COUNTY NEWS

During the summer, thousands of visitors who braved the weather and attended the "Son et Lumiere" performances at Gloucester Cathedral must have gone away with unforgettable memories of glories not revealed by the light of day. A smaller number learnt much of the history of Bisley and of the "ghost" church which the genius of Mr. W.I. Croome can resurrect from the hints and fragments left by the too ardent restorers. They heard that there is a unique survival in the churchyard, a Lantern of the Dead, examples of which so frequently

appear in churchyards on the Continent but not in this country. A small, temporary collection of records and relics, lent by local Museums and private owners, was on show during the celebrations and this example might well be followed on similar occasions elsewhere. This year was the quater-centenary of the Restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II. His return, while probably rousing little enthusiasm in the cities of Gloucester and Bristol, was eagerly awaited by the Royalist families in the county, whose estates had been sequestered. The agent for sequestrations who called on the Veale family at Simondshall in November 1659 complained that one shouted at him, "Now you rogue, Monks a-coming," that young Thomas Veale announced that his uncle Nicholas was being released from Hurst Castle and that Mary Veale called out that she hoped Monk's army in Scotland would not stop to eat till they had won a battle on English soil. The Record Office and the City Library presented an excellent Exhibition of Royalist and Roundhead material this summer of which we publish a description by Mrs. Winter.

Meanwhile, work on the Victoria County History is proceeding and Mr. Elrington has sent in the following note:-

"At its meeting in May the Committee decided that the first task should be the preparation of a volume of parish histories. As is usual for the V.C.H. the parishes will be grouped according to the ancient hundreds in which they lay, and it was decided that the first volume should cover the hundred of Slaughter and the upper divisions of Tewkesbury and Westminster hundreds. These lie in the north-east part of the county, and among the towns and villages they include are Bourton-on-the-Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Sherborne, the Slaughters, Moreton-in-Marsh, and Stow-on-the-Wold.

The Committee also decided to interview candidates for the post of Assistant Editor, Miss Kathleen Thomas was appointed, and began work at the beginning of September.

The Editor (Mr. Elrington) and Miss Thomas have made a start with the parishes in the immediate neighbourhood of Stow. Much of their time is spent in Gloucester, where a substantial part of the documentary material is to be found - mainly in the Gloucestershire Records Office and the City Library. Their researches have also taken them in pursuit of material to London, Oxford, Worcester, Stratford-on-Avon and Bristol; and they spend as much time as can be spared in the villages whose history they are writing, looking at buildings and the terrain and talking to the inhabitants."

REPORTS FROM COUNTY MUSEUMS

The Curator of Cheltenham Museum gives us the welcome news that Local History will certainly play a part in the newly projected Schools Service to be undertaken by this Museum. He also reports two recent accessions of

considerable local interest, an oil painting of Charlton Park by J. Griffither, and another painting entitled "Hay-making at Dixton Manor" (Nr. Cheltenham). Both pictures date from the eighteenth century. Pictorial records are of course of the greatest value and a collection of negatives dating from about 1890, recently found in a cellar in Westgate Street, Gloucester were rescued by Mr. Owen Parsons and those of old buildings handed over to the Folk Museum.

The Curator of Gloucester Museum has sent us the following account of other additions to the City Museums.

"1. Late Anglo-Saxon and early Mediaeval coins

With the help of generous grants from the Dulverton Trust and the Victoria and Albert Museum, six rare coins from the Gloucester and Winchcombe mints were acquired at the April sale of Part X of the R.C. Lockett collection. The three pre-conquest coins of Aethelred II (979-1016), Harthacnut (1040-1042) and Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) are all from the Winchcombe mint. The coin of Harthacnut is only the second known example of its type, the other being in the Royal Cabinet at Stockholm. Of the three post-conquest coins from the Gloucester mint, two, those of William II and Henry I, are believed to be unique of their type. These six coins are important additions to the Museum's extensive collection of the products of the two Gloucestershire mints.

2. Silver spoons by a Gloucester maker

The Museum has also acquired, again with the help of the Dulverton Trust, a pair of silver trifid spoons made by William Corsley, the Gloucester goldsmith, c.1665. These spoons are of particular interest since they bear marks different from those on the St. Andrew Apostle spoon presented by the National Art Collections Fund in 1950.

William Corsley was born in Bristol in 1640 and settled in Gloucester in 1661 on his marriage to Anne Fletcher, daughter of a city mercer and alderman. His workshop was in College Court, and between 1661 and 1684 he carried out a number of repairs to the city plate and regalia. He produced a new silver seal for the city in 1661. He also made a chalice and paten for Rufford Church in 1663 and a flagon for St. Nicholas Church, Gloucester in 1668, but of his secular work only some half-dozen examples appear to have survived."

Mr. Taylor also reports that "In February 1960 a very large hoard of Roman coins was found in a pottery jar about 11 ft. 6 ins below pavement level during building excavations at the Cross, Gloucester. Both coins and jar were taken to the British Museum. The hoard was later declared Treasure Trove.

The hoard numbers approximately 10,000 coins, and is believed to consist mainly of double denarii (antoniniani) of the period 274-86 A.D. The coins so

far examined are of bronze with a good silver coating.

The jar with the coins had been placed in a small pit within a Roman masonry building, of which some walls could be traced. The jar is of Glouven ware and was fitted with a lid."

NEWS FROM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society are hoping to publish an historical Atlas of the County. It will probably contain reproductions of the Saxton map of 1577, the Morden map (1695) the Tocsdale map (1830) the Isaac Taylor map (1777) the Ogilby road map from Bristol to Worcester (1675) street plans of Bristol, Gloucester, Stroud, Cheltenham and Cirencester and a modern Ordnance map of the County. Production is still being considered so no definite price can be given but if the demand seems likely to be considerable, it may be as low as 15/- a copy.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society report a very successful summer season. The accounts of their excursions and lectures in the local Press are followed with great interest by a large number of Wottonians living elsewhere so the members' pleasure is shared by a wider fellowship. An excellent Annual Report and Local History News Brochure has been received from Cirencester Historical Society. It contains reports of the recent excavations there including a note by Mr. L.V. Grinsell on the remains of freshwater molluscs found during the excavations and the information they provide on the nature of the soil and water in the vicinity at that period. There is also an article by Mr. W.I. Croome on "History from Church Wardens' Accounts" which should send many an investigator hunting in his local Parish Chest. The Society has commissioned Mr. Gaydon, Assistant County Archivist, to transcribe and index the Cirencester Parish Registers and the first volume from 1560-1636, which begins at an unusually early date for such records, has been completed and four copies distributed, one to the Records Office, one to the Parish Church and two to the Bingham Library. The second volume, 1637-1700, has been transcribed but not yet indexed. The Forest of Dean Society is considering the idea of sending small parties to take films with recorded commentaries of places which are inaccessible to large groups but about which members would like to be informed. Two pieces of private research are taking place. The private railway line from Drybrook to Mitcheldean Road, which was never used is now proved to have been metalled, on the testimony of the engine driver who drove the train for workmen to take up the rails in the First World War, an interesting instance of local knowledge recovered by living memory. Meanwhile, investigations are taking place on the trial boring for a tramway tunnel under the Severn made as early as 1812. It was made at Bullo in the parish of Newnham on the river bank about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the hill on which the Church stands. The same promoters had already bored a tunnel approximately 1,000 yards long through Hair Hill, which, Mr. Mansfield

reports, can lay claim to being the earliest rail tunnel in the world. He would like to know whether there are any traces or records of the Bullo enterprise on the Frampton side of the river. The Bulletin of the Thornbury Folk maintains its high level and this number contains notes on Oldbury Church of England School and on the Oldbury census schedules of 1841 and 1851. Mr. Hoskins, in his "Local History in England" points out that the cost of obtaining photographic copies of the schedules from the Public Record Office is not high and that as they give the information on occupations, birthplace, and relationships of the members of each household, most valuable work can be done by comparing the results with early Directories.

EXCAVATIONS

Much work has been done in the County during the past season and we are indebted to Mrs. O'Neil for these notes on recent excavations.

Woblington, near Chipping Campden

A further season of excavations was carried out in 1960 under the supervision of Mrs. H.E.O'Neil, when the complete hypocaust of a large room, parts of two other heated rooms and a large plunge bath were opened up. The site is on the banks of a wooded dell from which there flows a copious spring of water, and from the remains found there is every reason to think that the buildings belong to a bath establishment connected with a shrine dedicated to the goddess of the spring. The plumbing and drainage system connected with the bath is interesting and has been carried out with great care so as to safeguard the purity of the water from the spring.

There remain fragments of white marble showing that the steps into the bath were covered with this material and the large quantity of highly coloured painted wall plaster found lying on the floor of the bath points to a gay bathroom. Part of the wall design was of fishes.

There was a great dearth of the usual finds of pottery and other domestic objects, which helps to point to the site as one of a bath building and not of a "villa".

Bourton-on-the-Water, Sandhill Gravel Pit Roman Villa

In opening up a new gravel pit in 1960 about a mile below Bourton, the remains of a villa was discovered. The site was an unexpected one for such a site, low lying and liable to flood but at the actual confluence of the two rivers Windrush and Diklor and on gravel sub-soil, were the remains of a Roman building. Excavations by Mrs. H.E. O'Neil revealed that little remained of the walls but all the usual adjuncts were present. Red roofing tiles, painted wall plaster, tesserae, pottery, glass and a coin. Adjoining the villa were shallow trenches outlining a field system and there several drains indicated that flooding was known in that day too.

Ditchford Gravel Pit - Stretton-on-Fosse

Workings at the pit have produced Roman and Iron Age pottery. The site is beside the Fosse Way and there seems little doubt that this must have been wayside settlement. Several groups of burials have also been located scattered amongst hut sites."

CIRENCESTER EXCAVATIONS 1960

The following report was made by Mr. J.S. Wachter, Director of the excavations, for the Bulletin of the Cirencester Historical Society and our thanks are due both to the author and the Society for allowing us to include it.

"Excavations under the auspices of the Cirencester Excavation Committee, took place in the Grounds of St. Mary's Abbey Estate during seven weeks in March, April and May.

These excavations produced results of great archaeological importance; at the south end of the site about half of one of the main gates leading into the Roman town was uncovered immediately beside the present London Road where it enters the town. This gate, facing towards the north-east, carried the traffic both from Akeman Street and the Fosse Way (which adjoins Akeman Street just outside the town), the former leading to Verulamium, the latter to Leicester. Of considerable importance, therefore, it was built in monumental style, and its overall width must have been about 100 feet. It was flanked on either side by semi-circular turrets, about 20 feet in diameter; and although mutilated by mediaeval stone-robbers, it is

reasonably certain that it had four carriageways, like the London and Chester gates at Verulamium. Two of these, in the centre, would have been for wheeled traffic and would in turn be flanked by slightly narrower passages for pedestrians; there were indications that the latter were wide enough to take carts on occasions.

In front of the gate were the massive stone foundations of the abutments for a bridge. This is an interesting point, since it shows that the present course of the River Churn, which is about 8 ft above the low-lying grounds to the west, is definitely artificial, dating from the Roman period, and not from the Middle Ages as previously might have been suspected. This water flowing through the Roman ditches caused much trouble in the 4th century, when it undermined parts of the town wall and one of the gate towers. These were refaced and a small flood gate was provided by cutting a channel through the wall, to relieve pressure against it.

A rampart of turf and clay was also erected in conjunction with the gate, probably during the first half of the 2nd century.

Later, probably about 200 A.D., this rampart, by then much weathered, was cut back, and a massive wall of stone, 10 ft thick, was built in front of it. This wall was uncovered at several points during the excavations, and was standing 6-9 ft high in places. At some points as many as nine courses of ashlar face had survived, together with chamfered plinth - a most impressive sight.

The foundations of two external bastions, added to the wall during the 4th century, were also found.

Among the numerous small objects of pottery and metal was a hoard of 480 coins of 4th century date, which had been buried in the silt of the ditch outside the gate."

Captain H.S. Gracie, Secretary of the Cirencester Excavations Committee adds that it is almost certain that there will be an excavation in the town about April-June next year and experienced volunteers will be needed. The work is expected to include a re-examination of the Basilica last seen in the nineteenth century and a section through the main street with its sewers and excavations of other buildings lining the street.

Meanwhile, the third article in this number is an account of an excavation carried out on the site of a deserted village near Blockley, abandoned after the Black Death. As so much public interest has been taken in these lost villages of England, Dr. Hilton of the University of Birmingham, who sponsored the excavation was asked to give a fuller account of this particular investigation.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Curator of the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham writes:-

"I have two queries on which I should be grateful to have correspondence with any of your readers:-

Wheel Houses

In several North-Eastern counties (especially Durham and North and East Ridings of Yorkshire) many farms have a wheel house built on to the barn. This is a single-storey building, often hexagonal in plan and about 25 feet in diameter. It once housed a horse-wheel: a wooden machine rather like a roundabout, which included a large circular gear above the horses' heads. It was turned by 2,3 or even up to 6 horses and in turn, by way of the gear and a shaft pinion, drove a threshing machine in the adjoining barn.

Apart from the North-East of England, I have observed wheelhouses in Huntingdonshire and have records of them from Devon and Cornwall.

I should be very glad to hear whether any wheelhouses are known in or around Gloucestershire, and if so would be delighted to be able to obtain a photograph or drawing.

CIDER MILLS

I have recently observed two types of horse-operated cider mills, and, superficially at any rate, these seem to have distinct geographical distributions. I would like to see more examples of these machines and accordingly would be most grateful if any of your readers could lend me photographs of horse-operated cider mills, either with or without the horse at work. Naturally the locality of the subjects of these photographs would be important if these were known. Such photographs would be carefully returned within a few days".

Correspondents should write to Mr. F.A. Atkinson at Bowes Museum.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion the Committee is most grateful to all those who have written contributions or sent information for this Bulletin. It is at present distributed free of charge by the courtesy of the Community Council but it may be necessary at a later date to make a nominal charge. Material for the Spring number and suggestions for improvement will be welcomed by the Editor. It is hoped that all societies and Local History Workers will enjoy a good winter's work.

U.M. Griffiths
(Editor)

WHO KNOWS?

Before the days of railways and of all-pervading road transport the inland waterways of Gloucestershire were of immense importance and formed part of a National water transport network. Today the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal has practically faded from memory, the Stroudwater has gone the way of the old Thames & Severn and only the Gloucester & Berkeley Ship Canal with its associated Severn navigation above Gloucester remains in active use. Yet even here, the nature of that use has greatly changed.

A great deal of this change and decay has taken place within living memory and local historians of the future will surely hold us to blame if we fail to make some attempt to record recollections or relics which would tell posterity something of the old life which these waterways knew. There are many questions to be asked and almost certainly there are old people somewhere who could answer most of them. A regular service of passenger steamers once plied on the Gloucester & Berkeley canal taking country people to market in Gloucester. What kind of craft were they and who built them? There could be photographs of them in existence. For how long did the service operate and what was its timetable? We are told that long after the ship canal was opened some Severn trows continued to navigate the river to Gloucester to avoid paying canal tolls. Does anyone recall seeing these trows on the river, and if so where were they bound? When did the last boat trade to Bullo Hill or use the lock on the Upper Parting at Maisemore?

To prevent boat owners cheating them over tolls, the Thames & Severn Canal Company installed a most elaborate 'weigh dock' at Brimscombe where a complete boat with its cargo could be weighed to determine the toll payable. Does anyone remember this dock in use, recall any details of it, know when it went out of use and what became of the machinery?

The Stroudwater canal crosses the ship canal at Saul and continues down to the Severn. When was this old entry to the river last used and by what traffic? Someone may know the answer.

Most of the old Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal between Gloucester and Ledbury was made into a railway in 1881 and the remaining section to Hereford went out of use about the same time. This is a far cry, but one can still peer into the gloomy depths of Oxenhall tunnel near Newent and there may be some who inherit recollections of the last boats on the canal or who keep faded photographs or some other relics of this vanished waterway. If when you read this, you say to yourself, "I bet old Mr. X. would know something about that", then do go and see Mr. X. at the first opportunity. Next year may be too late.

Please send your reports and photographs to the Secretary, Local History Committee, the Old Rectory, Whaddon, Glos. If you are willing to meet some of the older people who have a story to tell and help them to write their account, but do not yourself know any of them, please send your name and address and the district you could cover. In return we will make short reports in this Bulletin on records received and will see that any worker who does not get a Bulletin is given a copy of any such reports.

AN EXCAVATION OF A MEDIEVAL DESERTED
VILLAGE

UPTON, NEAR BLOCKLEY

The people of Blockley have known for a long time that two fields south of the fine seventeenth century house at Upton Wold Farm there lie, only a few inches under the turf, the remains of an ancient settlement. These earthworks show that on either side of a gully running eastwards towards Blockley there were more than one dozen, perhaps nearly twenty, small peasant farm houses, with enclosed crofts or paddocks stretching behind them as far as the boundary bank which encircles the settlement.

Two years ago the Cotswold Survey of the University of Birmingham's School of History began to plan a systematic investigation of this site. It was necessary, to begin with, to attempt to find out as much as possible about Upton from written records. For so small a place, a surprising amount of evidence appeared. This was because Blockley was a manor of the Bishops of Worcester, and Upton was a hamlet of Blockley. It is well known that ecclesiastical landowners kept their estate records in remarkably good order in medieval England. And so we are able to establish that a settlement existed as early as the ninth century, and that although not mentioned by Domesday Book, it had by the end of the twelfth century a population of at least six rent-paying tenants of the Bishop with holdings of arable land. In 1283 eleven persons - not necessarily all the inhabitants of the village - were paying tax, and according to the Bishop's great survey of 1299 there were at least fourteen substantial peasant families and three cottagers or small holders.

From this time documentary evidence of a settlement of peasant farmers becomes scanty. A feudal tenant paid an aid for a twentieth part of a knight's fee at Upton in 1346, but after the series of bubonic plagues which began in 1349, Upton disappears from the records. It is not mentioned in taxation returns from now onwards and a very detailed reeve's and rent collector's account for Blockley manor of 1383 makes it almost certain that

no village existed at that time. Tithes are mentioned from other Blockley hamlets, but none from Upton. The only reference to Upton in the whole account tells us that the lord of the manor paid a certain sum towards the King's 'Fifteenths' (a tax on moveable goods established at a fixed figure in 1334). This tax was normally collected by taxpayers from the villagers. The fact that the manorial income had to be debited with this amount almost certainly means that there was no-one in Upton to pay it.

It seemed, then, that the village ceased to exist early in the second half of the fourteenth century. The earthworks in that case would be those of farm buildings of that date or earlier. In 1959 the members of the Cotswold Survey made a proper ground survey of the whole site, and in 1960 excavated one of the buildings under the supervision of an archaeologist, Mr. John Wachter, F.S.A. The object of the excavation was to attempt to establish various dates of occupation, and desertion, by archaeological methods; to get some idea of the constructional methods of medieval rural builders; and to obtain information about the rural economy of the medieval Cotswolds such as might not be obtainable from written documents.

A building about 34' x 17' was chosen for investigation. It seemed to stand alone, but excavation showed that it was in fact the northern end of a continuous 'long house' some 95' in length. It soon became clear that the southern end, which was not excavated, was probably the farmer's dwelling house and that the part excavated, perhaps added later, was for a considerable part of its existence, a byre. It was substantially built, with dry stone walls two feet thick, still standing nearly two feet high in places. A divided drain in a cobbled floor ran out through a wide door in the east wall. The door was subsequently narrowed and eventually filled in and a new floor of pitched limestone laid down.

Some pottery, nails and other ironware, including a horse or ox shoe, were found associated with the successive occupation layers. These have yet to be analysed, classified and (as far as possible) dated. When this is done, we shall see how the written and the archaeological evidence support each other. Meanwhile it is hoped that the excavation will continue, and that the story of the whole of the long house will be re-constructed. Fortunately the survey has gained the interest of the people of Blockley, and the invaluable support of Mr. A.W. Holder of Upton Wold and of Captain Spencer Churchill, the owner of the land. Local History always thrives best with local support.

R.H. Hilton

INDUSTRY IN THE STROUD VALLEYS

For some time there has been growing concern over the condition of some of the older industrial buildings of this country. This came rather to a head in December 1959 when the Council for British Archaeology sponsored a conference in London to discuss the matter more fully and ascertain the full extent of this anxiety.

I was unable to attend this meeting, but all reports show it to have been a distinct success. Papers were read on the Industrial Archaeology of the W. Midlands, the Stamford Canal, Cotton Mills, and the problems of recognising and recording the aesthetic value and importance of many of these industrial buildings. In the discussion that arose, the need for urgent work in the Stroud Valleys was stressed by Dr. Joan Evans, President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and Mr. Christopher Cox.

Staffordshire County Council expressed an interest in the preparation of a pilot survey of the material within their county, and after somewhat lengthy negotiations work upon it has now started. In the meantime I was approached by Dr. E.R.R. Green, Secretary to the newly formed C.B.A. Research Committee on Industrial Archaeology with a view to starting an investigation in the Stroud district as a second survey area.

The policy of the Stroud Museum towards local history, the nature of a large part of its collections and the subject matter of the enquiries that come in daily, make it an ideal centre for such a survey.

Unlike Staffordshire County Council, the Museum has not the staff nor facilities to undertake a survey covering a vast area. The limit I have chosen is the watershed of the River Frome and its tributaries - an area of about 106 square miles, including the villages of Arlingham, Hastington, Nymphsfield, Kingscote, Cherington, Sapperton, Brimpsfield, Cranham and Radwick.

This area is internationally renowned for its superior quality cloth, but the other industries must be considered also. These subsidiaries include stone quarries and limekilns, clay pits and brickworks, silk, stick and grist mills, tailors' outworkings, iron works and breweries to mention but a few. It is hoped that each old building on every site may be measured, described and photographed. Unless of particular interest the more modern buildings will be noted but not described in detail. Some mills like Stanley Mill are extensive, others like the little shear mills at Nailsworth are so small that many of them may never be located. Tailors' outworkings and minor warehouse buildings are rather a problem on account of their density and their lack of history or character.

In addition to places of employment, clothiers' houses and tied cottages will be included where possible; also some of the border line

structures like bakeries, beehouses and dovecotes. Turnpike roads, canals and railways must be considered as they not only linked up the isolated mills but set them upon easy routes to the large cities.

In spite of the urgency of the field work, this has been delayed pending an investigation into the local distribution of mills. Many mills closed soon after 1820 and of these some have vanished almost without trace. But Gloucestershire is fortunate in that the large county map by A. Bryant published in 1824, marks almost every water mill, and the directories of the period are also most helpful. By this means it has been possible to pin-point over 150 mill sites. The limited amount of field work done shows this to be a low estimate, but its value lies in that it simplifies the search in areas where the remaining visible evidence is too slight in itself to be claimed as proof of the former existence of a mill on that site.

The survey, which it is hoped will ultimately be published, is still in its infancy, but the information to be gained will, I am convinced, be of the greatest value to local historians not only here but in other parts of the country. Already several national and county bodies have expressed a wish to co-operate. In the meantime, I would like to hear from anyone prepared to assist in any aspect of the survey, or who may have done research into the history of a particular mill or group of mills. Please write or call at Stroud Museum, Lansdown, Stroud.

Industry looks only to the future; the past must be our concern. Three industrial buildings were demolished this year in Stroud alone, - the buildings you see this week may not be standing this time next autumn.

L.F.J. Walrod, Curator of the
Stroud Museum, Glos.

THE MISTS OF THREE CENTURIES FADE

In his preface to the handbook published for the "Royalist and Roundhead" Exhibition which was held in Gloucester from July 15-27, the Duke of Beaufort suggested that in imagination we might hear "the clatter of hoofs, the sound of trumpets and the thunder of cannon" of the Civil War days. This was perfectly true for, with our minds awakened by these stirring exhibits we could almost see it before our eyes. It was a most worth-while display which had taken many months for its careful preparation by the staff of the Gloucestershire Records Office and the Gloucester City Library. They are to be most sincerely congratulated on what they achieved. The whole Exhibition was very clearly arranged in chronological order, each section being simply explained in extremely scholarly fashion in the guide-book. Added to this there were excellent and full descriptions of each exhibit, ranging from original

manuscripts, transcribed so that they could be read more easily, to explanations of the actual working of the cannon in use during the war.

Much painstaking and genuine enthusiasm lay behind these precious bits of reality and special mention must be made of the beautifully drawn and coloured modern plans and decorative maps specially done for the Exhibition by Miss E. Middleton. That of the different garrisons holding out either for King or Parliament and that of the sequestered estates in the county told a grim story. Best of all perhaps was the plan of the siege of Gloucester, with its tiny yet accurate figures. Prince Rupert even has his beloved white dog, "Boy" by his side near his tent at Matson House.

Among the outstanding exhibits must be mentioned the original manuscript of John Smyth's "Able Men and Armour" which is still in perfect condition, a letter, signed by King Charles himself, ordering Prince Rupert "to collect" (i.e. commandeered) as much cloth as possible from the Gloucestershire woollen mills so that the Royalist troops might have their badly-needed uniforms, and a demand for the hated Ship-money from the High Constable of Berkeley, saying that if the petty-constables of North Nibley did not deliver it by a certain date, that he would come and fetch it himself.

Humour too crept in, sometimes unexpectedly. There was the entry from the parish register of Elmstone Hardwicke which records the death of a parishioner who had scurrilously gibed at Roundheads and had then died of a (literally) swollen head himself, "of an extraordinary bigness".

But it was the actual years of war which most vividly came to light. One cannot easily forget the simple lists of ordinary Tewkesbury citizens required to work for a month in constructing the "bullworks" of the town or the demands for the Forest coal-miners to bring with them their everyday working tools to tunnel under the walls of Gloucester.

The city under the command of Sir Edward Massey, "assaulted by God but saved by man", withstood a month's siege and, having capitulated, was for months "isolated and half-starved". It is with this in mind that one would have welcomed more records of the families and private people who experienced the realities of war. There probably exist diaries, letters and parish registers which tell of war tragedies, the betrayal of one kinsman by another, of the garrisons manned chiefly by women, of wounded soldiers escaping to some remote village and dying there, even their names unknown. Desertion, plundering, stealing horses from poor colliers, the burial of Royalist and Roundhead in one common grave - there was little of this in the records of kings and generals, noblemen and princes.

Yet this is not entirely true for in one corner of the hall were the arms of an ordinary soldier. Here was his helmet, his breastplate, and his bandolier, with his ammunition and powder-flask. Above hung two cavalry standards

from Bromsberrow Church, one Royalist, one Roundhead. Helped out by the vivid facts so well displayed in this excellent exhibition, we felt we understood much more fully the part they played.

Dorothy Vinter

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES

Recent additions to Gloucestershire Collection

Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. The registrars of the church of St. Mary, Dymock, 1538-1790

Cheltenham Rural District Council. Official Guide.

Gloucester City Library and Gloucestershire Records Office, Royalist and Roundhead in Gloucestershire 1640-1660.

Gloucester City Museum. Ten treasures of the City Museum 1860-1960

Gloucester District Nursing Society. A handbook of the Gloucester District Nursing Society.

Gloucester Railway Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd. A history of the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co. Ltd.,

Gloucester Rural District Council. Official Guide.

Hannam-Clark (T.) A handbook of Gloucester Municipal Charities.

Moore (J.) Man and bird and beast

Pavey-Smith (A.B.) Nailsworth from 1500 to 1900.

Pereira (W.D.) Lark-ascending (Fiction)

Playne (A.T.) A history of Playne of Longfords Mills

Saunders (J.) A collection towards a history of the parish of Weston-upon-Avon (c.1815)

Stoor (F.W.) od. I am my dear Sir, ...

Valo(E.) The mailcoach men of the late eighteenth century

Woenolsen (H.) To keep this oath (Fiction)

Wodin (N.) Room at the bottom (Fiction)

WINTER PROGRAMMES

Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society

Nov.7: "Edward Garlick and Son, two important Industrialists in the Eighteenth Century", Mr. I.V. Hall.

Dec.5: "Recent Work on Cotswold Prehistory" Mr. L.V. Grinsell

Cheltenham and Gloucester Historical Association

Oct. 14: "Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts" Dr. O.W. Hassall

Oct. 21: "The Other Armada. The Abortive Franco-Spanish Invasion Attempt of 1779" A. Temple Patterson

Nov. 11: "The Slave Trade" Prof. C.M. MacInnes

Nov. 25: "Prince Henry the Navigator" Prof. J.C. Metford

Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society

Oct. 17: "Roman London" Prof. W.J. Grimes

Oct. 31: "Great Casterton". Dr. P. Corder

Nov. 28: "Roman Corinium and Modern Cirencester" Dr. I.A. Richmond

Forest of Dean Historical Society

Nov. 5: "Something about Heraldry" Mr. J.L. Elliott (Newnham)

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- President - H.E. Viscount Dunrossil, P.C., G.C.M.G., Q.C.
Chairman - G.B. Young, Esq., Freefolk, Berkeley Road, Cirencester.
Hon. Secretary - Miss M.S. Holland, M.A. 49 Victoria Road, Gloucester
Hon. Treasurer - D. Jelf, Esq., Lloyd's Bank, Cirencester.

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club

- President - Mrs. M.L. Sprague, B.A., F.L.S., 7 Hatherley Road, Cheltenham
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Hon. Secretary - Miss C.A. Simpson, Byfield, Painswick, Glos.
(.rch:colony)
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Forest of Dean Local History Society

- President - C. Scott-Garrett, M.B.E., D.S.C., Tre-Evan, "Llangarron"
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Society of Thornbury Folk

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Chairman - S.R. Luce, Esq., Friezecroft, Rudgeway, Bristol.
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