

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

LOCAL HISTORY

BULLETIN.

AUTUMN 1964.

NO. 10.

Editor:- Dr. O.M. Griffiths.

Gloucestershire Community Council,
Local History Committee,
Community House,
Gloucester. Tel: 28491-3.

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER.

AUTUMN 1964.

The two main interests round which this Bulletin must centre are Cirencester Abbey and Gloucestershire Place Names. Mr. Wachter contributes an account of the excavations at the Abbey and Mr. Sherborne has reviewed the two volumes of its Cartulary edited by Dr. C.D. Ross which appeared this summer. Miss Tucker's review of the English Place Names Society's volumes on Gloucestershire shows their great interest and importance to the local historian but much work remains to be done on recording and mapping field names as Mrs. Vowles explains in her paper. Since our last number Group XIII of the C.B.A. have held a Conference at Exeter which proved a stimulating meeting-ground for members, though the programme was naturally concerned with the South of the area rather than with Gloucestershire. Mr. Rahtz summarised his researches on Medieval Bristol and Dr. Hoskins considered the relationship of the archaeologist and the historian in the South West. It has been decided, following the example of other centres, to discontinue the rather elaborate organisation of the National Register of Archives in the County. This does not mean, of course, that newly discovered documents should be ignored but that the finder, instead of filling in yet another form, should write directly to one of the joint Secretaries, the County Records Officer or the Chief Librarian, Gloucester City Library.

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 43, Bedford Square, W.C.1., on November 20th and preceded by a meeting for the Secretaries of Local History Societies on November 19th. In future subscribers to "Amateur Historian" may apply for an invitation to the Annual Meeting. The main theme of this year's meeting is the Victoria County History. The General Editor will speak on this great undertaking and in the afternoon Professor Glanville Williams will give an address on The County History of Glamorgan. The Spring number of "Amateur Historian" included an article on the recording of Family Portraits in Lincolnshire by the Local History Society. This project has been highly recommended as a useful piece of work by both the Standing Conference and the National Portrait Gallery so it is interesting to read of an attempt to put their recommendations into practice. An article on title deeds written for beginners must have been appreciated by many readers. The Summer number contains a note on Parish Records and the Village Community by W.E. Tate which also will be invaluable to beginners, and in view of the great interest in Industrial Archaeology it was wise to include an article on the Business Historian which is full of the most human and valuable suggestions.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE.

The Committee warmly welcome Miss Pamela Powley as their new Secretary and are sure that with her active support many new projects can be undertaken. This year it was impossible to hold the One Day School on Records for Sixth Formers but the Committee are again offering prizes for the best entry by one or two essayists working together and also for the best group entry on a Local History subject submitted by pupils of any Secondary School. This year's prize-winner, J.M. Rogers of Stroud, has received warm commendation for his paper on Gloucestershire Railway Architecture in the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology's Newsletter. It is pleasant to hear that in Marling's School, Stroud, a kind benefactor presents a School Local History Essay Prize and if this example was followed elsewhere it would greatly encourage young historians. With the help of volunteers, recordings have been made by a large number of entrants in the competition for memories of Gloucestershire before 1918 and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to lend recordings to Old People's Societies, Local History Societies and Schools. The written papers were so lively and exciting that with the added charm of the actual voices the records should provide a most memorable programme. A record of a group of Gloucestershire folk songs recalled by Mr. F.A. Chamberlayne of Maisemore Court has been sent to Cecil Sharp House.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY.

In their Newsletter, the Society welcomes the recent establishment of an Aeroplane Museum at Staverton Airport. An article on this Museum appeared in "Gloucestershire Countryside" (June - July). The field activities which members hope to cover are the examination of Mills and Mill wheels, Transport Relics, Engineering and Agricultural Machinery, Factory processes and Public Utility Bygones. A meeting was arranged to measure Small's Mill, Pitchcombe, under the guidance of Mr. Waldron who has sent us a comment on the extreme importance of such work and the Society hope to carry out field work on the Thames and Severn Canal. Their Newsletter contains a note by the County Records Officer on a Steam Engine (1787) used in connection with a colliery at Cromhall.

This season the Society organised some very attractive excursions. In May members visited Monmouthshire and inspected the Severn Tunnel Pumping Station. They were able to see the six 70" beam engines dating from 1877 in the Spring House which is itself practically intact. It is hoped that one engine will be retained as a museum piece. They also visited the remains of the railway and pier in use before the Tunnel was built. The July expedition to the Forest of Dean included a free mine at Viney Hill, a free mine at Yorkhill closed in 1875 but re-opened in 1957, the site of Mushet's iron-working blast-furnace at Darkhill, Newland Church for the Free Miner's brass and a scowle-hole at Clearwell. On a guided excursion by Mr. K.G. Ponting at Bradford-on-Avon, members saw South Wraxall Manor, a fine example of a wealthy fifteen century clothier's house with later additions, the eighteenth century clothiers' houses in Church Street and the terrace of three-storeyed weavers' houses running behind them. Mr. Household conducted the tour of the Thames and Severn Canal and the Stroudwater. Visible remains visited included the house and Office of the Clerk of the Stroudwater Navigation at Walbridge (now the Stroud Waterworks Offices) the lock at Framilode which connected the Stroudwater with the Severn and the very complicated arrangement, necessitating a series of stop-gates whereby the Stroudwater crossed the Gloucester and Berkeley Canals at Saul. The pathetic remains of Brimscombe Port were visited and then the party were taken to the Sapperton end of the Tunnel. Mr. Household explained how the presence of fuller's earth prevented the retention of water and so ultimately ruined the Canal. He warmly recommended repairs to the Tunnel entrance, many of the worked stones being still on the Canal bed where they fell. At Latton the course of the Canal is now almost lost but the agent's house with wings for warehouses and its pedimented facade facing the Canal bank was well worth a visit and so was the converted Round House at Inglesham.

The first number of the National Journal of Industrial Archaeology contains an article by Mr. Walrond on a unique set of early nineteenth century fulling stocks at Cam Mill. These stocks, since dismantled and stored, were apparently always steam-driven and used as recently as the mid-1930s to remove mill wrinkles. Mrs. Vinter contributed a paper on the Bristol Coalfields based on years of research and a very thorough knowledge of the Kingswood district. Interesting points covered include the freedom of the pits from methane and carbon dioxide until 1780 when they were deepened, descriptions of early machinery such as the "whimsey", of the early tramroads and the work of Handel Cossham who enriched the industry by finding the lower seam of coal below "Farewell Rock" and originated social and educational schemes for his employees for whom he advocated safety precautions. Mrs. Vinter is issuing this article in pamphlet form. The author of "Early Landing Places in the Port of Southampton" reported that a number of ancient piles found near the Royal Pier in 1949 may be the remains of the jetty from which in the fifteenth century Cotswold wool was loaded into Mediterranean carracks for transport to Italy.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE HISTORY OF CIRENCESTER ABBEY.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, not one stone of the Abbey buildings was left upon another, but this season's excavations already show that it will be possible to amplify the scanty notes of William of Worcester and Leland and build up some picture of the magnificent Church. There are deplorable gaps in the documentary history of the Abbey; the Cartulary records little of the inner life of the community, no Chronicle exists and the accounts have not survived. Nevertheless there is plenty of material from which we can people the richest Augustinian House in England.

The Order was noted for its reasonable and moderate Rule and attracted men of means and intelligence so it is not surprising that the Canons seem to have preferred copying manuscripts for their library to making mats and baskets, mending each other's clothes, gardening and other practical tasks permitted to them. A number of these volumes have survived in other libraries and some contain the names of the copyists so that we can see Simon of Cornwall and Adam de la More bending over the sermons of St. Augustine and Canon Fulk taking up his pen to continue the labours of Gilbert the Precentor and Adam the future Abbot. The works of St. Augustine were naturally well represented but surviving volumes include John of Salisbury's fascinating miscellany, the Polycraticon, a hymnal and seven volumes on Illustrious Men by Orosius.

The hospitality of such a rich House, standing at the junction of important roads was tested to the full by travellers, from Kings with their retainers to the poorest of their subjects. After the Black Death, the burden was almost more than the community could bear. But the constant opportunity for the exchange of ideas and collection of first-hand information must have delighted the lively mind of Alexander Neckham, Canon and subsequently Abbot (1213-16). Neckham had written his great treatise on the Nature of Things in prose before he joined the Order but he added his account of plants and animals to his poem praising the Divine Wisdom after he came to Gloucestershire. Neckham has been considered the first English writer who can be fairly claimed as a naturalist. Much of his work was like the Bestiaries pure theory and allegory, but he included records of contemporary observations, such as the story of the dog who learnt to steer a boat under his master's direction, vouched for by an eyewitness, tales of the behaviour of dogs and apes kept in castle menageries and observations on falconry. He described how peasants would syphon wine from a cask with a straw and mariners would magnetise a needle for use as a compass. Canon Raven notes his inclusion of one piece of nature lore which is true today, that nightingales do not sing on the Western side of the Severn.

In 1261 Archbishop Boniface brought to the Abbey for burial the heart of Sanchid wife of Richard of Cornwall, brother of Henry III and King of the Romans. Though the Canons must have grieved at the loss of their patroness, there must have been some consolation in the high honour shown to the community. It seems improbable that anyone derived any pleasure from the visit in 1321 of Edward II, furiously displeased with John Giffard of Brimpsfield whose castle he ordered the sheriff to destroy and determined to lay hold of the rebellious Maurice de Berkeley by fair means or foul.

The Episcopal Registers of Worcester contain occasional criticisms of the House including the 1378 Visitation when William Tresham the treasurer, the keeper of Cheltenham Church, the almoner and the precentor were removed from office and bitter complaints were made on the quality of the Abbey's bread, ale and fish. But the most interesting record from this source is the elaborate account of the contested election of Abbot Adam de Brokenborough in 1307. On St. Brice's Day the sub prior, the precentor and infirmarer were chosen as scrutators and withdrawing into a corner of the Chapter House "secretly" took the votes of the Canons and reduced them to writing. The almoner published the result of the ballot which was not strictly secret in fact as it was announced that 20 of the wiser part out of a total of 40 had voted for Adam. Three Canons thereupon cancelled their earlier nomination and Richard de Bisley, one of the nominees withdrew any claim. The proceedings ended with a hymn sung in English. The Abbot-elect was then presented to the Prior of Worcester, the See being vacant, who arranged for the examination of witnesses and read the Dean of Cirencester's declaration that the results had been published in the Abbey and in the Parish Church and no objections had been raised. No complaints followed the announcement of the election at "the door of the Church at Worcester". After considerable hesitation the Prior accepted the election as Adam was "a man well spoken of". Royal approval was obtained and the spiritualities confirmed to the Abbot-elect who was installed by the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

In addition to other secular interests such as the rigid control of the townsmen of Cirencester which Dr. Ross describes in his Preface, the Abbots of Cirencester were extremely successful dealers in wool. Unfortunately the two earliest lists of the amounts of wool available at English monasteries are so misspelt that they do not provide certain evidence concerning Cirencester but in 1404 the Italian firm of Tornabuoni and Domenico in London reported to a customer at Prato (near Florence) that Cirencester was considered the best of the monasteries for wool and that it was essential to book in advance there. Southampton was the port to which much Cotswold wool was taken to be shipped to Italy and the carracks and galleys brought luxuries for the East and necessities from the Low Countries in exchange. In 1439-40 the Brokerage Book of Southampton reports that wine, featherbeds and Calais pots were delivered for the use of the Abbot of Cirencester. As late as the beginning of the sixteenth century the Abbey sent raw wool for export to Southampton though the last Abbot, John Blake, realising that English cloth was ousting wool as a trading commodity, erected two fulling mills in Cirencester. At the Dissolution, the Abbey owned pasture rights in Gloucestershire at Baunton, Driffield, Preston, Aldsworth, Daglingworth, Salperton, Duntisbourne and Minety and in Latton on the Wiltshire border.

Finally when the days of prayer and praise at the Abbey were ended we can picture Abbot Blake, a good businessman but no hero, leaving the Abbey precincts in 1539 to enjoy his pension of £200 and spend a quiet life at Fairford, cared for by his chaplain, 9 men servants and 5 serving maids.

SAXON PUCKLECHURCH.

On May 26th, 946, King Edmund, the "dear deed-doer" died at Pucklechurch after a short but eventful life. As a youth he fought at Athelstan's side at Brunanburgh where the enemy regretted "the play that they played with the children of Edward" and when King, he himself reduced the men of the Danelaw and their pirate leaders, conciliated Malcolm of Scotland and extended the supremacy of Wessex over the whole Kingdom. His acts are twice commemorated in verse in the Chronicle. An earlier visit to the West nearly proved fatal for when hunting at Cheddar he escaped falling with his horse over the cliff by a miracle and as a thank-offering instituted St. Dunstan as Abbot of Glastonbury. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle states briefly that, "It was widely known how he ended his life, that Leofa stabbed him at Pucklechurch". Florence of Worcester adds that the King was murdered while defending his seneschal from Leofa who was a vile robber, that Pucklechurch was a royal residence and that the King's body was buried at Glastonbury by Dunstan. Edmund had apparently already given Pucklechurch to Glastonbury with the consent of his heir Edred who confirmed the gift by two Charters, the text of the last being on record. Professor Finberg considers that Edmund selected Pucklechurch as his "soul-scot", the offering due to the Church at his death for the good of his soul and as he had died violently and unshriven it is no wonder that Edred his brother confirmed the donation with solemn ceremonies, himself laying the Charter on the altar of the ancient Church of St. Mary and adding solemn curses on any-one who curtailed his gift. Later, however, some hardy creature must have risked spending their future life with Judas, Ananias and Sapphira for Ethelred II intervened to restore the lands to the Abbey. The terrier of Edred's Charter mentions Queen's Bridge and King's Ride suggesting royal visits had not been infrequent and refers to a cinder ford. It seems probable that as Edmund took counsel with his heir on its alienation, the property was an important one and this ford name is evidence that iron was worked there at that date. In 1086 the Abbot collected 90 bars of iron annually from 6 tenants. Pucklechurch remained the property of Glastonbury until John's reign when it was presented to Jocelin, Bishop of Bath and Wells on condition that he restored to the community the right to elect their Abbot and this use as a bribe again seems to suggest that the district had a high financial value.

The excavation of the Saxon Palace at Cheddar arouses the hope that somewhere beneath the soil of modern Pucklechurch evidence of similar buildings may remain. Rudder, writing in 1779 noted that a house on rising ground towards Dyrham was said to stand on the site of the Palace which "by ruins in hillocks still remaining must have been of large extent". In 1830 the site of the Palace was mapped on ground formerly known as Silliards. The traditional site lies on a field near the Star Inn and when it was scheduled in 1952 the Ministry of Works suggested the banks and ditches on the site might be the remains of an Iron Age Camp and that the central plateau contained rectangular hollows signifying the existence of former buildings and rooms. When work was begun this Spring on four detached houses on the site, the Ministry suggested that the Local History Society might undertake an emergency excavation. A trench was opened across the main ridge under the supervision of Mr. J. Harcock of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group who reports that "the end wall of a building levelled to a maximum height of 18 inches, 21ft. long and 2 ft. 6 inches wide was uncovered. Roof tile fragments could suggest a date not earlier than the fifteenth century. A few sherds of cooking pot of thirteenth century date were recovered but not in quantity enough to suggest occupation at this period". Though this small excavation apparently revealed no trace of Saxon occupation, it does not alter the fact that Pucklechurch may have exceptionally important evidence to contribute to the history of this period and the Local History Society is well advised to use constant vigilance.

THAT HE WHO RUNS MAY READ.

For those of us who travel for pleasure and are interested in the history of the places we visit two distinct types of literature are necessary. As we plan our route, we look for books which give the flavour of the districts through which we shall pass and provide, without too much detail, descriptions of the villages and scenery which the author feels it would be a mistake for us to miss. Edith Rvill's Portrait of the Cotswolds is a notable addition to this series. She is an enthusiast on local architecture and her account is of particular interest when she discusses in an unusually sympathetic manner modern problems and solutions. She includes much new material on Cotswold history, such as notes on Mrs. Clifford's work at Bagendon and her theory on the connexion of Caractacus with the sites at Minchinhampton and Rodborough and Professor Finberg's analysis of Roman and Saxon Withington. She quotes some delightful information from V.H.H. Green's Young Mr. Wesley on his happy circle of young lady friends at Stanton. Pleasant details such as the excellent early ironwork at Cheltenham are brought to our notice. Occasionally she has accepted material from earlier accounts without a check; for instance Lady Fox has proved that the Woodchester Pavement dates from the early fourth century and not, as Lysons supposed, from the reign of Hadrian and there was never a cell of Godstow Nunnery at Daglingworth. But she has produced a work which will greatly increase the pleasure of the novice and the "old hands" who tour the Cotswolds and both should include this book on their reading lists.

When our homework is done, however, and we are on the road, a different kind of help is needed and in this country travellers are not well served. Not only are there no equivalents of the C.I.T. offices and Syndicates d' Initiative to guide our footsteps but there is a sad dearth of local histories and guides which should be on sale preferably in the local Church which has no early closing day or otherwise at the Post Office or local shop. Recently I was disappointed at the impossibility of obtaining any account of the battlefield at Naseby. Far too many Churches still offer no account of their own history and points of architectural interest and it was a most refreshing change to find at Warmington (Warwickshire) a good account of the Church and its connexions with Edgehill provided "for my pleasure", and how willing in return I subscribed to the fund for central heating. Our own county is not free from blame and it seems sad that one "chained" copy of the W.I. Festival of Britain pamphlet could not have been preserved in the Church of those villages which produced such successful booklets. Local History Societies could surely foster the production of such histories and guides and no wiser benefaction could be made than a gift towards the reprinting of a standard village history. But at Bisley at least the wanderer has no excuse for ignorance. There is an excellent Guide to the Church

filling in for the reader the picture of that earlier building lost in the 1862 restoration. It was compiled by Mr. G.T. Sanders who has followed his pamphlet on Bisley and the Oxford Movement reviewed in our last number by a delightful account of The Rev. Thomas Keble and his Curates. The portraits which he reproduces people the parsonages of the district with fascinating characters and we feel we really know the Rev. Robert Suckling of Bussage who worked with such enthusiasm for the improvement of fallen women in his neighbourhood exchanging in the process the round-faced assurance of his appearance when a naval cadet for the careworn expression of his later portrait. After seeing the whimsical expression of Thomas Keble, Junior, it is no surprise to find he invented the legend of the "Bisley Boy" alias Queen Elizabeth I. All three publications are on sale in the Church and the Guide has gone through several editions. It would be most satisfactory if all the parishes in the County would follow this shining example.

PRACTICAL LOCAL HISTORY WORK IN BRISTOL.

Volume 6 of "Notes on Bristol History" compiled from work done by members of a Sessional Class working on Bristol Archives contain some most arresting information. Among the records examined were those of the Militia during the Napoleonic War and the researcher points out how few of those drawn in the ballot actually served, though the fine for refusal amounted to a tenth of the evader's income. The most effective alternative to service was enrolment in the Volunteer Corps. In Miss Saywell's essay we find the Society of Friends teaching poor children in St. Philip's and St. Jude's parishes to write by drawing with a stick in sand but excluding girls wearing flowers, feathers, or other finery. In the cholera epidemic 5,000 food tickets entitling the recipient to a ration of rice flavoured with sugar and all-spice were issued. They also tried valiantly to reform the gangs of wild navvies brought into the City to work on railways, bridges and roads. Later, Missions to the Poor were organised and Quaker ladies valiantly offered their help, but quietism did not appeal to the masses. The analysis of the Action Books of the Piepowder Court throw an interesting light on merchandise carried by ships in the port at the time of the Fair in 1627. On board the "White Angel" for instance, were 123 casks of oil, 27 bags of aniseed, 13 chests of soap, 4 bags of curmin and 3 barrels of capers, while the "Solomon" of Flushing had 4,000 oranges and lemons, liquorice, pitch and Spanish wines and wools as part of her cargo. A paper on Gaol Delivery Fiats shows that between 1772-1820, 253 people were transported and 108 sentenced to death though in fact the penalty was often commuted to transportation. Many of the Fiats were signed by John Dunning when Recorder; his face may have "resembled the Knave of Spades" but he worked nobly for justice in the Wilkes case. An examination of Henbury Court Rolls reveals that in 1708 the Merchant Venturers were guilty of encroachment on Durdham Down to the extent of 60 acres and apparently moved the meer stones there and that one tenant objected to his presentment to the court by "one of the most prebanded, sanctified, religious, soberest rascals that ever Ireland sent abroad". Notes on "Bristol Apprentices in the time of Edward VI" include a magnificent list of contemporary tools and the commodities which apprentices serving the last years of their term abroad might be taught to handle. Other papers included in this record deal with a property account of Sir Ralph Sadleir, letters to Thomas Garrard, City Chamberlain in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the development of Prince Street and the Burgess lists of 1532-3 and 1533-4. Tutors and students are to be congratulated on the high quality of the work and readers will no doubt avail themselves of the opportunity to undertake similar class-work for themselves next year.

This year, to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the birth of John Latimer, the Bristol historian, the Bristol Archaeological Committee offered a prize to Bristol school-children for the best essay on Bristol Bridge. The prize was won by Patricia Harry of Baptist Mills Girls School with an excellent entry, but the Civic Society printed the essay written by one of their junior members, Paul Britton, which had exceeded the set length. The secondary material available has been well summarised and the pamphlet is a good example of the kind of publication which should be available to travellers. Visitors to the City would be glad to know that the bridge still stands on its medieval foundations, to read how the medieval stone bridge was erected and the devices whereby the houses upon it were supported and hear the explanation of the catchword "Give 'em Bristol Bridge".

REFORM AND REFORMATORY IN BRISTOL.

Two pamphlets have recently been issued by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association, The Chartists in Bristol by Dr. J. Cannon and Mary Carpenter of Bristol by Miss R. Saywell. Both are priced at 2/6d. and can be obtained from Mr. P. Harris, 4, Abbeywood Drive, Bristol, 9.

Of Dr. Cannon's essay Miss E. Butcher writes:

" 'A study of Chartism must begin', said Asa Briggs, 'with a proper appreciation of regional and local diversity'; and accordingly he collected a number of such regional studies of the movement. (Chartist Studies, ed. Asa Briggs, 1959.) Dr. Cannon's pamphlet adds another such study and like them it has both local and wider interest. It enables the reader to trace in detail the impact of this important movement upon the largest city in the West. From the premonitory meeting in Queen Square in 1837, which apparently made a sympathetic impression upon Bristol's Radical newspaper, it rose through weekly moonlight meetings on Brandon Hill to what the authorities and anxious citizens evidently expected would be a violent and dangerous climax on Whit Monday, 1839. But their sledge-hammer preparations for defence failed to find even a nut to crack; the Chartist demonstration did not happen. Although some Bristol members of the movement continued to press for spectacular methods, this evidently only served to rend the local organisation, and its internal dissensions were a principal cause of its dwindling into nothingness.

There remains the problem with which Dr. Cannon starts and to which he returns; why was a city with Bristol's proved capacity for riot, and with its crowded, squalid, unhealthy slums, so little moved by this nationwide working-class agitation? For the story makes it clear that even Henry Vincent, 'the young Demosthenes of English democracy', worked hard for a meagre response from the labouring classes of Bristol. Bristol was not the only place where the decline and fall of Chartism were largely due to its own disunity, but here it never reached any impressive peak. Dr. Cannon's suggestion that one reason was the variety of industry and therefore of employment in the city is well supported. He notes, too, that the magistrates had not forgotten the sting of their experience in the 1831 Reform riots. But he admits that this still leaves something of a problem. Another question which this history leaves in the mind is, why the almost complete lack of middle-class support for Chartism in a city notable for middle-class philanthropy both orthodox and pioneering?

Dr. Cannon's pamphlet will give food for thought and ideas for further study, as well as enlightenment."

Miss Saywell has written a most valuable and sympathetic account of Mary Carpenter's work at her Ragged School at St. James' Back and the Reformatories at Kingswood and the Red Lodge. The pamphlet gives a detailed account of her career and the reader becomes more and more appreciative of the humanity and modernity of Mary Carpenter's outlook. It was after all only twenty-five years before the opening of the Kingswood Reformatory that the Lewins Mead records noted with solemn approval that two boys found stealing lead from the Chapel stables had been committed to the treadmill. It is delightful to find how keenly Mary Carpenter realised that a young delinquent was probably a child who had been deprived both of affection for himself and outlets for his own kindly feelings. At the Red Lodge the smaller children were kissed and petted at bedtime and punishment of an adolescent trouble-maker was followed by more than usually affectionate treatment. Both at Kingswood and in Bristol rabbits were introduced and when the Red Lodge pets were literally loved to death, Miss Carpenter admired their tastefully arranged graves with a sympathy which any modern Probation Officer would commend. She noticed, too, that there was a definite connexion between delinquency and ill-health and fresh air was part of her treatment. Education in religious knowledge, domestic work and the three R's was supplemented by singing lessons, geography and talks on current affairs. Mary Carpenter had been educated with her brothers in the liberal Nonconformist tradition, learning Physical Science and natural history as well as Latin and Greek and she found the contents of her Geological Cabinet made a real link between

herself and the children at the Ragged School. She realised that for such children it was more important that they should be encouraged to like learning and to read widely than that their minds should be filled with facts and one feels she would have revelled in the wide choices of subject enjoyed by all children today. It was a blessing that a woman with the power and energy which made her respected as an authority could bring to the pioneer work in this field such a generous and liberal spirit.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES.

The 82nd volume of the B.G.A.S. Transactions contains, besides reports of excavations, papers by experts on Anglo Saxon Architecture and Sculpture, the history of Brimpsfield Church, on Sir William Semple and Bristol's Andalucian Trade 1597-8, and Shakospeare's Gloucestershire Contemporaries and the Essex Rising. Cirencester Historical Society have again provided guides to the sites excavated by Mr. Wachter, a more formidable task than ever before as so many sites and periods were involved. The first Album of "Dig" photographs was available for the Annual Meeting and the Historical Museum was opened to visitors on Thursday and Friday afternoons throughout the Summer. The Newsletter, by a particularly happy inspiration, was mainly devoted to a tribute to Mrs. Clifford. Dr. Glyn Daniels traced their work together from his own undergraduate days to the publication of his "Megalith Buildings of Western Europe" with its dedication, "For Elsie Clifford - Notgrove - Nymphsfield - Rodmarton". Professor Stuart Piggot gives a delightful description of the "beloved figure in the leopard skin coat" descending from Cafe-au-lait, the Chrysler, examining his work on a Long Barrow and her trenchant comment on conclusions which were at that stage rather hypothetical. He remembers the relief with which at the end of the season the excavators exclaimed, "Thank heaven, we can face Elsie now!". He points out how her wide knowledge of country life and processes has enriched her interpretation of prehistory. Dr. Joan Evans reminds readers that we owe all our knowledge of the Stoke Orchard Church murals to Mrs. Clifford's unstinted energy. It is delightful to read these appreciations of a personality we all love and revere and to know that she has shared our pleasure. The Cheltenham Society are now able to make use of their new headquarters presented by Lord Parmocr in appreciation of their work. Alterations have been made to provide a large room on the ground floor and smaller rooms can be hired by kindred Societies. The Society has suggested means of preserving the structural timber frame of Tinklers Rope Shop. It organised a most successful "Regency Rout" in connexion with the Cheltenham Festival. Pucklechurch Local History Society hope with the expert help of Mr. Charles Browne to trace the extent of any Roman remains at "Chessells" where much surface pottery has been discovered, by magnetometer or resistivity methods as the air photographs which they commissioned were uninformative. The Records Officer, Mrs. Garland, is collating the mass of information contributed by members on the history of old houses, "Stray" finds and field names, and the Society is appealing for photographs and sketches of the older houses in the village, past and present. At Marshfield the Group recording Vernacular Architecture meets once a month and 12 or 15 properties have been examined. Among the most interesting discoveries this season has been a pre-Reformation gable embedded in a late sixteenth or early seventeenth house in the High Street. A disused Malthouse which retained its kiln and steeping tank and other fittings was examined and photographs sent to the Department of Technology at Bristol Museum. A very interesting eighteenth century conversion of two cottages into a larger house has been traced and members are working out the details from the extensive collection of deeds belonging to the property. The Forest of Dean Local History Society (Ramblers' Section) have explored a disused Iron Mine, Welshbury Camp, and a Charcoal Burning Plant now consuming dismantled railway wagons instead of Forest timber. The Summer Number of the Society of Thornbury Folk's Bulletin contains notes from the Court Leet Roll (1756-62) and the Overseers' Accounts (1706-1774) which includes the sad tale of Samuel Bedgood; "man paid for fetching the doctor to S.B. 1/-, for filleting and linen cloth and other things for the Doctor to set his bones 4/-, on the men after setting of his bones 2/6, paid for burying of him £1. 0. 0." The Historical Association (Gloucester and Cheltenham) have arranged a special programme for Sixth Formers.

ADULT EDUCATION.

In Gloucester students will be working on original material at Mr. B. Smith's course on "Sources of Gloucestershire History" and Mitcheldean are again working with him on the history of the district. At Cheltenham Mr. Abbott is lecturing on "Discovering Gloucestershire's Past" and Mrs. D. Hart on "Cheltenham through the Ages" and Mr. Baty on "Local Studies". He is also giving a course in Gloucester on "Gloucestershire Studies".

Thornbury will examine "South Gloucestershire, the Region and its Development" with Mr. A.E. Frey and the history of South Gloucestershire will be discussed at Pucklechurch by Mr. L. Gore, special reference being made to the village itself. Dr. R. Perry is lecturing on "The History of Gloucestershire" at Stonehouse. "The Archaeology of South West England" is the subject of a course by Mr. C. Browne at Downend and Oldland is hearing the same lecturer on Archaeology in Local Studies. Mr. K. Hudson and a panel of speakers are responsible for the course on Industrial Archaeology organised at Stroud. It is evident that there is an ever-growing interest in local history and industrial archaeology and we hope for many more reports of research work and field work for subsequent numbers.

O.M. Griffiths.

B O O K L I S T.

Douglas	William the Conqueror.	Eyre and Spottiswoode.	£3. 3. 0.
Richardson.	River Severn between Upper Arley (Worcs) and Gloucester.	Printed Russell, Worcester	10/-.
Painter.	Severn Basin.	Evelyn, London.	15/-
Camps.	Wills and their Whereabouts.	Phillimore.	21/-
Girling.	English Merchants' Marks.	O.U.P.	35/-
	Introducing Local History.	National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square.	2/4d. post free.
	Directory of Authorities and Organisations.	(as above)	1/10d.

Reprints

Trevelyan.	Illustrated English Social History. Vols. 1 - 4.	Pelican Series.	8/6d. each
------------	--	-----------------	------------

Aids to Records.

No. 8. Episcopal Visitations. History Reprints available.

B O O K R E V I E W S

A.H. SMITH: The Place-Names of Gloucestershire
Part I: The River and Road-Names. The East Cotswolds. 208 pp.
Part II: The North and West Cotswolds. 264 pp.
Part III: The Lower Severn Valley. The Forest of Dean. 272 pp.
Cambridge University Press. £2. 2s. each. 1964.

Here is a massive work of reference which, if read with imagination, presents a detailed picture of the County's topography past and present, and offers glimpses of historical events, all caught in the vividly descriptive and accurately bestowed names of the major structures of the landscape, or of the dwellings and streets, fields and farms of men.

While there are occasional foreign forms - Early Celtic (Newent) Welsh (Corse, Dymock) - or some based on Continental personal names, the nomenclature is rooted in Old English, whose rich and precise vocabulary for the creatures and the features of the land is often retained in the local dialect as well as in the names. So too the personal names that have not been given to English children for centuries remain disguised in the place-names.

The names of the more important centres are among the more puzzling as to form and meaning; Gloucester itself, Bristol (included for convenience) Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, all offer problems.

The ages of the records cover more than the span of English history, ranging back from nineteenth century inventions to the first mention of Cirencester 1800 years ago. The lists of earlier forms are essential for the prevention of wrong deductions. They prove that Woeful Dane Bottom has to do with wolves and valleys, not Scandinavians; that Stoke Orchard was originally bound to support an archer; that Frenchay goes with the Frome, not with France; that Aust is more likely to be connected with Augustus than St. Augustine; that St. Chloe is a corruption of words corresponding to singed lea - a clearing produced by fire.

Royal, ecclesiastical and manorial owners have given their names to the land, and so have less exalted local people. Earl Godwin, the nuns of Minchinhampton, the Knights Templars, come into the story along with the names of ancient Germanic heroes like Hagen and Widia.

The work of the countryside is reflected in names referring to terrain and crops (including flax, vines and walnuts - locally bannuts), to the salt trade (Saltway), to soap-making, (Sapperton) and mining (Cinderford, Iron Acton). Sport is involved in the frequent references to rabbit-warrens implied in names derived from coninger, to glades for catching woodcock (the equally frequent Cockshuts) and to deer (Deerhurst, Harford, Lypiatt). Superstitions are hinted at in all the Cuckoo Penns and the Puck compounds; even a dragon appears to have guarded treasure in St. Briavels Hundred.

Prehistoric monuments, Roman remains, medieval fortifications, boundary marks, are remembered in the traditional names. So are by-gone conditions of life. Dollar Street in Gloucester was where they doled out charity, Gumstool recalls the cucking-stool that punished unruly wives; various Ratten (or Rotten) Rows remind us that medieval houses could be rat-infested - unfortunately, not situated near the several Cats' Castles. There are names that show how a field was rented out to maintain a church light (Lampeland) or how service was due from tenant to Lord on certain days of the week (Monday's Hill). Sometimes the name suggests a mystery: if Firdlip is really Bride-leap, what story lies behind it?

Fascinating as these volumes are, every reader will look forward to the fourth of the set, which is to contain the sources of the material, a historical introduction, lists of the elements making up the names, together with a full index and the appropriate maps. It is a pity we could not have had this essential apparatus along with the three parts the English Place Names Society has now had published: as it is, curiosity is often whetted: but for the reader who has only vague ideas about Old English vocabulary and phonology, the arguments on how the names developed will not always be easy to follow.

The University of Bristol.

Susie I. Tucker.

THE CARTULARY OF CIRENCESTER ABBEY, edited by C.D. Ross (O.U.P., 1964):
2 vols, pp. xiiv & 736, price £6. 6.

This cartulary, once the property of Sir Thomas Phillipps, was bought in 1946 by the late Lord Vestey (d. 1954) of Stowell Park, Cirencester. His awareness of the history of the beautiful district in which he lived and of the once famous Abbey of St. Mary, Cirencester, made possible this work, of which a third volume will appear in due course. Some of the groundwork was laid by the Rev. F.W. Potto Hicks, but the edition will be brought to completion by Dr. C.D. Ross. Historians of varied interests will be grateful for it. There is an excellent introduction, the text is printed in extenso and, not least, there is a good index. As a piece of book production, this is a joy to handle.

The creation of a house of Austin Canons at Cirencester - building began in 1117, the first abbot was consecrated in 1131 - was part of a remarkable wave of religious foundations in England during the 12th century. Cirencester was fortunate from the first; it was a royal foundation and Henry I's gift of the 'whole tenure of Regenbald' (once senior clerk of Edward the Confessor's scriptorium) assured it a prosperous beginning, more generous, it seems, than that of any of the numerous houses of regular canons

founded about this time. Relatively to its order the house also finished wealthily; four years before its dissolution (1539) it was assessed at a clear value of £1046. This cartulary is mainly concerned with the lands and churches from which revenue was derived. Keeping a cartulary was common monastic practice; more than sixty from Austin houses have survived in original or in transcript. Among these the Cirencester cartulary stands out as one of major importance, and its publication may invite comparison with H.E. Salter's edition of the Oseney Cartulary (Oxford Historical Society, 1929-35).

Cirencester's earliest known cartulary (of which a fragment survives in the possession of the Marquess of Bath) was compiled in the late 12th century. Later two collections of documents (Registers A and B) were made, one in the mid-13th century and the other approximately one hundred years later; these collections, together with subsequent additions, make up this cartulary. The purpose of the compilers was to make convenient works of reference in which copies of royal charters, papal privileges, title deeds, records of law suits, and of other records of diverse origin were brought together. Documents relating to particular holdings were mostly grouped together, and thus it was easier to consult the registers than to search through the archives of the house.

Although the cartulary contains many grants after 1135, the accuracy of Leland's statement that the lands of the abbey had been 'little augmented since the time of the foundation' is substantiated. Yet the pattern of patronage, skilfully analysed in Dr. Ross's introduction, is interesting. Most entries relate to the area of the original endowment which lay mainly in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Somerset. 'Regenbald's tenure', as described in Henry I's charter of 1133, included 19 churches and the cartulary contains much of value about the abbey's later relationship with many of these. There is, for example, new evidence about the early establishment of vicarages. Related to these there are papal bulls of appropriation and testimony of routine, though essential, work by diocesans in whose sees the churches lay. We should have liked to have learned more about the number of canons of Cirencester who served the churches, but here unfortunately (and not uncharacteristically) the cartulary tells us little. In the world of secular contacts, however, we can learn much about the long drawn-out clashes between the abbey, which was granted the manor of Cirencester by the crown together with valuable jurisdictional rights in the neighbourhood, and the townsmen of Cirencester. Here was a constant source of dispute, and although some material from the cartulary is already familiar, one is grateful to have all its evidence in print. Obviously this is a primary source for the history of medieval Cirencester.

Numerous other points of interest might be noted. It is clear that this distinguished edition of an important text will be used as a quarry for many purposes. Dr. Ross, who has already edited The Cartulary of St. Mark's Hospital, Bristol (Bristol Record Society, vol. XXI, 1959), has put Gloucestershire medievalists very much in his debt. It would be pleasant to think that the not too distant future might produce editions of the cartularies of the county's two other major Augustinian houses, St. Augustine's Bristol and Llantony by Gloucester.

J.W. Sherborne.

FIELD NAMES AND LOCAL HISTORY.

Dr. H.P.R. Finberg, describing the continuous history of a Cotswold village, wrote "the pattern of the fields and roads and hedges visible at Withington today is a thing of modern creation. It dates from 1819", the year of their Enclosure Act; but by comparing this picture with earlier documents, and by tramping the fields he was able "to reconstruct the thousand-year-old pattern which the commissioners blotted out". (H.R.P. Finberg. Roman and Saxon Withington. Leicester Occasional Papers 8. 1959).

Students coming to my house in search of village history are finally bidden to look out across the hedgerow and observe the latest agricultural revolution. The foreground consists of almost 2 miles of grazing prairie; the seeker after cooling streams must look underground or into a naked cutting; trees have all but vanished and with them the footpaths of which they were for a time the chief pointers. This prairie may be the oldest cultivated ground in the parish, with ancient tracks, for until the railway came to make things awkward in the eighteen-forties, it included half the open-field system. Time has brought a blotting out indeed, yet of the nearest acres of prairie it is still possible to say "Take the footpath across Atterlings". The name remains to us on the 1840 Tithe Map and in some title deeds, and with the help of the Tithe Map it has been possible to reconstruct the field pattern of 100 years ago - a short time, but part of the system was still open then and even sharing slices with two other parishes. The name Atterlings - situate as it is below a church with Saxon traces and near to a hill-fort, suggests the value of a linguistic study, but the crux is in the correlation of name with geographical site. In our own parish, it was the discovery on an old map that a disputed public track was identical in name with the open field into which it ran, which provided evidence for reinstating it after it had been privately closed; and Dr. Finberg again showed in the case of Withington how the use of a map over against a Saxon Charter could relieve him of the necessity for changing the points of the Saxon's compass in order to find his answer.

Field names are the short-hand of the farmers, and an esoteric knowledge. A few may trickle into village usage and the rest will vanish as the hedges go and they are replaced by "The Forty Acres" and "The Hundred". Hence it seems that the time for recording is now, and it could be enjoyed by the neophyte, since it combines the handling of a primary source in the 1840 Tithe Maps with field work, filling a blank map (6" with names written in or 2½" with a separate terrier) and a search for information round the farms.

In planning their history studies country schools are faced with the problem of "How local is that?". A fair number stand new-built on ancient tillage; would it not make a contribution to their school history to begin with the ground it stands on, and working from there, to set it in its place in the story? The national footpath map is proceeding on its snail's way; what if the parishes had a field map side by side with it? Here indeed would be a Domesday.

E. Vowles

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY, - WHY MEASURE BUILDINGS?

During the past year the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology has, as a group, surveyed several buildings in addition to work done by individual members.* The choice of which buildings should be measured depends upon several factors. In one instance, demolition of an important clothier's house had already begun before the significance of the structure was realised. Within 48 hours the house was fully recorded. Two derelict mills, formerly of considerable importance were threatened by decay. The walls of one of these standing several storeys high had started to show signs of weakness and might collapse in a rough gale. In the second mill, the demolition of some 19th century buildings exposed a badly weakened original facade. This was strengthened as a safety precaution, but a survey was organised before any part collapsed, and before some newly planted creepers concealed any important details.

What is the value of these carefully prepared ground plans, these elevations, these notes on roof timbers, details of mouldings and of course the series of photographs of all significant features? Firstly it cannot be over-emphasised that once a building has been demolished without record NOTHING can bring back precise details to enable a comparison to be made with other structures still standing. A record made today may raise little comment, but in 20, 40 or 60 years it may well be the raw material of research into those things we regard as commonplace.

Photography is of major importance. In minutes it can record not only a general view, but details of windows etc., some of which may be dateable. But the camera does not give a true picture of scale. It is an asset, not the complete answer. The measure must be used as well. In its simplest form, a survey might contain overall measurements only; but ideally, for selected structures, it should include enough data to compile plans of each floor, and an elevation of the exterior. Any surviving machinery should be examined and drawn into the plan. If more than one building exists, or there are indications of alterations to the main structure these, together with details of streams, mill ponds, etc., should all be clearly shown.

Windows and watercourses are always important. The latter can shed light on the number of water wheels, and frequently gives a clue to alterations in the available power which might otherwise pass without notice. Windows vary a great deal. As more information comes to hand it will be possible to divide them into distinct categories. Some buildings bear date stones or are of known date, and these supply the data from which each category may be given a date range. This is invaluable in dating complete buildings or the alterations that have been made to them. The cross sections of stone mullions and the size of the lights in traditional windows may be very important as can the sizes of the glass panes in the later iron framed lights.

The aim in every survey operation is to gather such information that ultimately we, or our successors, may for every building be able to answer.

How big was it?	What was its use?
When was it built?	By whom?
Was there more than one building?	Was it ever altered?
If so, to what extent, by whom, when and why?	
How does it compare with others locally in size, style, date, etc.?	

Similar questions may be asked of every piece of machinery. We cannot hope to answer every question at once. Some may take years. By then progress will have erased much of the raw material of architectural research. There is only one solution, we must measure up our old buildings as well as take photographs; and we must do it soon.

Lionel F.J. Walrond.

*It is intended that the results of the bulk of this field-work shall be preserved at Stroud Museum. The Museum is in close touch with national organisations, and in this way information is more easy of access than if kept in London or in the care of numerous private individuals.

EXCAVATIONS 1964.

CORINIUM.

"The excavations which have just been completed at Cirencester have produced important evidence for the Roman town of Corinium and also the mediaeval Abbey of St. Mary.

This is the first time that a mediaeval site has been tackled for its own sake and the results show it to have been well worth while. Up to 150 people have helped on the dig which was directed by Mr. J.S. Wachter of Leicester University.

Four sites expected to yield information about the Roman town were examined. In one below a Roman Street and its flanking buildings, the ditches on the north-east side of the early fort, founded about A.D. 47, were uncovered. It now only remains to discover the south-east side of this fort, which preceeded the civilian town and belonged to the first military occupation under the Roman army, for its full size to be known. On another site a large metalled open space, which, in its earliest period, had been separated from a street by a boundary wall, was uncovered. It was possibly the enclosure for a temple and this might account for the subsequent destruction of the boundary wall, if temple and enclosure had been levelled by Christians, leaving a large open space to serve other functions.

At another site, in the gardens of Ashcroft House, part of a large town house dating to the fourth century, was examined. Two of the rooms had fine mosaic floors of intricate geometrical patterns. One floor was about 30 ft. square, but had unfortunately been damaged by mediaeval stone-robbers and more recent gardening activities.

The other, smaller, floor contained the more interesting patterns, but passed out under the garden wall into a neighbouring property so that only about half could be uncovered. It was, however, in better condition. Yet a third mosaic, belonging to a corridor of an earlier house, was found beneath the first, so that in all three mosaic pavements were revealed in an area about 50 ft. square.

The largest excavation took place on the site of St. Mary's Abbey and its associated buildings, and here for the first time in Cirencester were found levels representing the Dark Ages, sealed between Roman and mediaeval strata.

The first monastic foundation at Cirencester dates to the ninth century when a College of Secular Canons was formed. The excavations have so far revealed little of this establishment, although it must seem likely, as a result, that the collegiate church lay within the town boundary and served as the town church.

This would be in keeping with the known history of the present Parish Church, where no work earlier than that of the Norman period has ever been found. The Canons suffered the general decline in monastic life which occurred in the eleventh century, so that in the early twelfth century Henry I began a reconstruction which produced the great Abbey Church. The buildings took some time to complete and the Church was not consecrated until the reign of Henry II, who was present at the service.

During the course of the reconstruction the lands and all possessions of the original Order were transferred to the Regular Canons of St. Augustine. Later, and partly from being a Royal foundation, the Abbey of Cirencester became one of the richest and most powerful monastic houses in England, and was certainly the richest of all Augustinian houses in the country. It is therefore in keeping with this description that all the finds made during the present excavations have been of the very best quality.

One of the first points that the dig had to settle was the exact position of the Abbey Church. It had long been thought to lie under the post-dissolution Abbey House, but early in the course of the excavation this began to look unlikely, and the Church does in fact lie further to the south and closer to the boundary of the present Parish Church graveyard. So close is it to the boundary that it almost looks as though the south transept may be partly below the graveyard.

This had interesting implications, since it is known that the Saxon Collegiate Church was incorporated on the south side of the choir of the great Norman Abbey, and used as a Lady Chapel, so it may also lie inside the town boundary. But confirmation of these points must await the future.

Most of the north transept of the Norman Abbey was cleared in the course of excavation. Originally it possessed an apsidal chapel on its east side, although during the 14th century this was squared off with a massive wall which became the new east side of a much enlarged transept. The east range of the Cloisters was also uncovered, together with the undercroft of the Canons' Dormitory, and the Chapter House. The latter building originally had an apsidal east end, but in the fifteenth century it was rebuilt in the later polygonal style.

Much ornamental stonework from the later period was recovered, including many fragments decorated with red and blue paint and gold leaf. Large portions of a life-size statue of a female figure, also gilded and painted, were found close to the entrance, where there may have been a niche to hold it.

At the dissolution of the Abbey, it was ordered that no stone should be left showing above ground, an injunction which the excavations showed had been carried out with remarkable thoroughness. Nowhere was more than one course of the original wall-facing found in position, and then only in isolated places.

Notable among the smaller finds were a triangular panel of Limoges enamel, probably from a reliquary; a cabochon of rock crystal, probably from a similar source; three seals from papal bulls; a small bronze crucifix contained in a border representing a small shrine, with kneeling angels on the upper corners. A number of burials were also found; two of these contained lead chalices, one unfortunately corroded and crushed beyond all hope of recovery; the other was of late 14th or early 15th century date. The latter burial was found in a well-constructed chantry tomb off the side of the south choir ambulatory and was probably that of an Abbot. No evidence for a crozier was found, but since the Abbots of Cirencester were not granted full pontificals until the mid-15th century this would not be surprising.

To sum up therefore: 1964 has seen some notable advances in two major fields of archaeology at Cirencester, covering the town's history from A.D.47-1540; and the work of the Abbey can only be considered as a precursor to more and perhaps better discoveries."

J.S. Wachter

FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA.

Excavations in 1964 exposed the whole bath block at the back of the east wing. This was quite elaborate for the size of the villa. There were five rooms as well as a large furnace room from which three of the others were heated. All were arranged to allow convenient circulation on the Turkish bath system. The bather would go first into the unheated dressing room, then to a hot room in preparation for the very hot room where he might spend some time enjoying the steamy heat. From there he would pass into the frigidarium for a quick cold plunge, back into the dressing room and then into the warm tepidarium for relaxation and, perhaps, fun and games.

The dressing room and tepidarium were each 12 ft. by 13 ft.; obviously much too large for one man alone. We may assume that a bath was something of a social function and even that the neighbours may have been invited when it was intended to light up the boiler. The very hot room, caldarium, was the smallest, 7 ft. by 13 ft., and contained a hot tank. This was hardly big enough to get into and in any case the water may have been much too hot. If fed from a copper over the furnace outside, it would have been nearly boiling and would have helped to raise the temperature of the room. The frigidarium was the largest room of all and contained a cold plunge 6 ft. square and 2 ft. deep. A 2-inch lead pipe for emptying the bath took the water through the wall to a drain outside. One may well imagine that with three or four young men in the bath at once there would have been a great deal of splashing and throwing water about. In fact a second outlet was provided to carry the water away from the floor and out to another drain. A refinement in this room was a little toilet in the corner which could have been flushed with a bucket of water from the bath. The tepidarium had had a mosaic pavement on the floor and was used as a sort of lounge after the bath. Ivory dice and pottery counters suggest its use and the large number of fragments of wine beakers elsewhere in the villa point to a certain conviviality.

An unexpected discovery was the skeleton of a middle-aged man - 5 ft. 7 in. tall, slightly built, with very bad teeth, mild arthritis in his right hip and possibly a slipped disc. He was buried with his boots on to make his journey to the underworld more comfortable, but there was no coin in his mouth to pay old Charon to ferry him across the Styx. Perhaps by then coinage had gone out of use. He seems to have died after the east wing had been abandoned for his grave was very shallow, only 25 ft. from the back door and just under the bath-room window.

H.S. Gracie.

A SECTION OF THE NORTH BANK OF THE
ROMAN LEGIONARY FORTRESS AT GLOUCESTER.

An excavation was carried out in April with the permission of the Dean and Chapter in the gardens of the King's School, Gloucester, to locate the line of the bank of the fortress. A section of the bank, built of turves and clay was found, 24 ft. wide, at a depth of 3 ft.

On the outward side of the base of the bank a series of horizontally laid timbers reinforced the bank. At a later date the bank had been cut back to insert the foundations of the Roman town wall but was found to have been ruined to its foundation, probably at the time of the Restoration when King Charles II ordered the demolition of the City Walls. The recent work has established the size of the fortress as that of a Legionary one and the sherds found in stratified levels confirm dating in Claudian - Neronian times, 50-60 A.D. while the erection of the town wall can be placed towards the end of the second century A.D. The work of excavation was carried out with the help of the City Museum and the Gloucester Roman Research Committee under the supervision of Mrs. H.E. O'Neil.

H.E. O'Neil.

BARNSELY PARK ROMAN VILLA, 1964.

The development of the buildings revealed in previous years has been the main aim of this year's work. An ingenious and very effective method of reinforcing the sides of the well had been devised by Harry Ross and Hugh Cameron and this had been fixed before the season started. The completion of the excavation took only a few days since a stone slabbed bottom was reached at 24 ft. 9 ins. Below the deliberate packing of stones were several feet of blue clay silt which was brought to the surface for sorting. This produced fragments of one complete jar and the lower parts of two others which must have been broken against the sides of the well enabling their upper parts to be hauled out and discarded. Our hopes of the string having broken several times and depositing good vessels into the silt were not fulfilled, nor had the well been used as a rubbish dump but was deliberately filled immediately after being in use, presumably as part of the major alterations late in the history of the building. Diligent searching through the clay did produce a few objects but so far nothing of any dating significance.

The stripping of the large farm building continued and the north end was found, making the excavated length 60 ft. We began to think that the solid stone packing of the last phase was not for a higher floor but to form a solid standing and so involved the demolition of the building, but this remains an open question. On the floor was found the skeleton of a complete sheep which should provide a useful basis of study of the breed of this period.

Fortunate discoveries of coins (c. A.D. 330) in Area 1 show that the dry stone walls, becoming even more complicated in this area, belong to the fourth century. The earliest structure so far recorded is the gully in Area 9 sealed by the earliest yard levels and which seems to produce pottery somewhat earlier than the fourth century. The house area was extended to the east and what appears to be part of a small bath-house uncovered. This included a heated room with an apse which had been inserted into an earlier structure. The complexities in this area are considerable and only further stripping and removal of the irregular paving slabs in Areas 18 and 24 will enable the history of this building to be understood.

The small finds this year are not of the quantity or quality of previous years and none deserve comment except a fragment of column base which indicates architectural pretensions somewhere on the site.

The basic chronology written in the 1963 report remains valid with the exceptions noted above, but may have to be amended for the house when the area to the east is further explored.

The survey of the field system was extended to the south. The dry weather produced some parch-marks in the grass in the area to the north. These were roughly surveyed by pacing and it seems likely that they may represent part of the main house of the establishment since the structures so far explored could hardly be so designated.

Prospects for 1965 seem very bright and the possibilities of extending the season to a month are to be investigated. The Director wishes to thank all students and staff for their excellent hard work and continued support for this highly interesting enterprise.

Graham Webster.

REPORTS FROM MUSEUMS
IN OR CONNECTED WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The Curator of Gloucester City Museums reports:

"An outstanding example of a long case clock made by Richardson Peyton of Gloucester, c. 1750, has been acquired from the executors of the estate of the late Sir John Prestige. The clock is unusual in that it is weight driven and goes and strikes the full hours for a year. It is housed in a handsome green lacquer case decorated in gilt in the Chinese style and stands 8 ft. 7 in. high.

Richardson Peyton was born at Sandhurst, near Gloucester, in 1718, and at the age of eight he entered the College School (now the King's School). He later became Gloucester's leading clockmaker. After his death in 1782 his household furniture was sold by auction on July 2nd 1783. The advertisement for the sale was published in the Gloucester Journal for Monday, June 30th, and included "a clock that will go for a year and a day without winding up.". This must surely be the same clock and one wonders how much was bid for it in those far off days!

The executors of the late Miss C.D. Ransford-Collett have presented a fine series of fifteen water-colours of Bourton-on-the-Water by T.C.Dibdin (1810-1893). The works were all executed between 1855 and 1869, and apart from being valuable records of Bourton at that time they are fine examples of this artist's work.

FOLK MUSEUM. The display of bells made by Gloucester bell-founders has been enriched by the acquisition on loan of the bell from Gloucester Prison cast by Abraham Rudhall during the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714). Abraham Rudhall was the most famous member of the local bell-founding family, and many of his bells are to be found in churches throughout the country. Few bells cast for secular institutions have, however, survived, and the importance of this particular specimen is enhanced by the fact that it bears the initials, I.L., (those of Rudhall's assistant), as well as those of the bell-founder himself. In addition to the initials the bell carries the characteristic leaf-scroll found on Rudhall bells, and the legend, 'God Save Queen Anne'. The bell which has been lent to the Museum through the courtesy of the Prisons Department of the Home Office, was formerly used to govern the time-table of the prison day, as well as being rung to give warning of escapes, and tolled on the occasion of executions.

A number of interesting craft tools from the Forest of Dean have been presented by Mr. L. Smith, who is still working as a blacksmith at Bream. Of particular interest are a set of hammers used for dressing the local stone, and beating-up irons used for metal parts for tubs used in the coal mines in the area.

Some years ago the Museum acquired a large collection of blacksmith's tools from the smithy at Cainscross, but were unable to accommodate the large wooden wheel which had transmitted power for the lathe. The smithy has now been demolished, but the wheel has now found a permanent home in Bristol's new Department of Technology. The Gloucester and Bristol Museums have also co-operated in salvaging an early Crossley Gas Engine which was discovered during the demolition of an old bakery in Hare Lane, Gloucester.

Items of domestic laundry equipment added to the Museum's collection in recent months include a Pressing Mangle and an early hand-powered washing machine. The collection still lacks a good example of an old fashioned kitchen mangle and the Curator would be pleased to hear of one in good condition, for which the owner has no further use."

The City Museum must be warmly congratulated on the recently published Catalogue of Roman-British Sculptures compiled by the Archaeological Assistant, Mr. J.F. Rhodes. In her preface Professor J. Toynbee points out that the collection holds outstanding treasures, the male head found near the Bon Marché in 1934, dating from the early First Century "which is the most superb example in the whole of Britain of the fusion of Celtic Art with the principles of three-dimensional Roman sculpture", and the fine Antefix, since antefixes in stone are extremely rare in this country. The general reader will find much to interest him both in the text and fine reproductions. The sculptures linked with Roman military life remind us of long service in the widespread Empire and the resulting introduction of Eastern cults into this province. The altars raised to Mars as a fertility god protecting men, beasts and crops with his weapons and to Mercury, who protects men's daily journeys and trading in this life and guides their souls through the underworld after death, throw light on the minds of the ordinary men and women of Roman Gloucestershire. Students of plastic form will be enchanted by the extraordinary variety presented to them from the male head, which could easily take its place in an exhibition of contemporary work, to the fantastic tablets of Juventinus found at Bisley, the realistically rounded bust of the infant Attis, the elaboration of the Antefix and the crudity of the sixth tablet from Lower Slaughter. It is to be hoped that, as Dr. Toynbee recommends, a similar catalogue will be produced by Corinium Museum particularly as finds from the same site have in the past been distributed between the two Museums and the collections are to some extent interdependent.

At Stroud Museum the Curator informs us that

"During the late spring of this year the long awaited improvements to the heating system were finally put in hand and the Folk Room again made available to the general public.

The pottery excavated from near King Stanley church, and mentioned in the last number of the Bulletin, has now been dated to the early part of the 12th century. Washing and reconstruction continue to make progress and no fewer than ten pots are now taking shape. It is most probable that the medieval building was timber framed, and had a moat. It was built upon a site occupied in Roman times. Finds from this lower level have included coins, bronze objects etc., but as yet no foundations.

Accessions during the summer have included an early pram, a rocking bath (unusual exhibits can provoke great interest!!) made by the Jersey Company of Dunkirk near Nailsworth, and the famous weather-cock from Painswick church steeple. This retains the marks of bullets fired in the late 19th century by a Painswick gentleman who was later obliged to pay for its replacement.

During late October the Museum staged a one week exhibition on the Stonemason's Craft, as a part of the Stroud Festival of Religious Drama and the Arts. This was seen by over 600 visitors. Although in an area famed for its building stone, very little stone dressing is now done locally except for work on Gloucester Cathedral and other church monuments."

Unfortunately two important buildings in the town have been recently demolished.

4-6, Nelson Street, Stroud.

Home of a clothier or merchant. Datestone 1676, but in part 15th century with 16th century additions.

Wallbridge Mill, Stroud.

Genuine 17th century mill with datestones 1680 and 1687. Thought to be the earliest complete cloth mill in the area.

Bristol Museum have recently acquired two rare gold coins, one found at Pensford of the Chute (Wiltshire) type struck between 90 and 50 B.C. and a Stater of the British Romic type minted between 40 and 20 B.C. This coin was found by Master Stephen Woods while digging in his father's garden and shows the reward possible to an amateur "archaeological detective". The Department of Technology have received on long term loan the caravan designed for Dr. Gordon Stables and immortalised in his "Cruiser of the Land Yacht Wanderer" published in 1886. This account initiated the idea of caravanning for pleasure. A very rare hay-stack boiler at Westerleigh has been reported to the Curator and it is hoped to acquire this specimen and perforated floor tiles from a Malt House at Marshfield have been added to the Collection. The Winter Lecture Programme includes "The National Survey of Industrial Monuments" by Mr. Rex Wailes, F.S.A., (Jan. 20th 1965) and Mr. C.A. Raleigh Radford's account of his recent excavations at Glastonbury Abbey (March 24th). This year the Schools Department have put on an impressive exhibition of work. The best entries in the Summer Competition were again presented and included a very impressive illustrated manuscript on Medieval Bristol from Eastville Girls School. It ended with a note, "We have enjoyed doing this" and their pleasure was certainly shared by the reader. A very enterprising paper on Bristol Glass manufactures by a pupil of Redland High School included photostats of patent grants and a B.G.I.R.A. translation of a German article on Old Glasswork Cones. Besides this type of work, models and dressed dolls inspired by the collections sent from the Museum to the schools or by the classes held in the Museum by its own staff were exhibited. There is a flourishing Saturday Club for which competitions and projects are organised. The waiting list is so long that it is necessary to restrict membership to one year only but the members (aged 10-13) are so keen that it is hoped ex-members will carry on their own projects using the services available at the Museum to help them.

It is good to know that within our own County Cheltenham Museum's Schools' Service seems to be equally successful. In 1963-4 11,302 children in 432 parties made special visits, more than double the number for 1961-2 the year the service was inaugurated. In 1961 lectures by the Schools Museum Officer illustrated by specimens and filmstrips were offered and 1963-4 146 such talks were enjoyed by pupils. This year a Schools Loan Service has been arranged and to date 147 items have been circulated. The various services are available to all schools in the County though only those within reasonable travelling distance are automatically circularised. The County Education Committee are keenly interested in this development and have shown their appreciation by increasing their annual grant to the Museum. Recent accessions include a R.B. cinerary urn containing ashes from Syreford, a coin of Constantine I (306-337) from the same district and 15 watercolour drawings of Gloucestershire carts by the late D. Albino.

GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLLECTION RECENT ACCESSIONS

- Place-names of Gloucestershire, 3 vols., by A.H. Smith
- Gloucestershire Bird Report for 1963 by North Gloucestershire Naturalists Society.
- Portrait of the Cotswolds, 1964, by Edith Brill.
- Forest story: Dean Forest through the Ages. 1964. By R.J. Mansfield.
- The Severn Basin. 1964. By K.S. Painter.
- Thirteen Rivers to the Thames. 1964. By Brian Waters.
- Glevum: Roman Gloucester: a site-plan of finds in the city. 1964.
By L. Fullbrook-Leggatt.
- Early Puritanism in Gloucester, 1383-1689. MSS. 1964. By G. Dutton.
- Archives in the Gloucester City Library. 1964. By V.A. Woodman.
- The Mediaeval churches of Bristol. By Marguerite Fedden.
- Bristol and the Slave Trade, 1963. By C.M. MacInnes.

St. Mary's Church, Cheltenham: with a short account of the
Church of St. Matthew. 11th edn.

A short history of Bibury Parish Church. 196-. anon.

The Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey, Gloucestershire. 1964. By C.D. Ross

The Friends Meeting House, Frenchay. 1963. By Dorothy Vinter.

Over Bridges. By L. Fullbrook-Leggatt.

History of Lydney and District Hospital. 1964. By R.A.J. Bell.

Guide to St. Mary's Church, Painswick. 1963. By Rev. H.F. Heal.

An outline history of the Abbey House, Tewkesbury, and its
adjoining buildings. By Paterson and Bishop, architects.

The Roman Villa at Woodchester, Gloucestershire. By Malcolm D. Mann. 1963.

PROGRAMMES OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1964-5.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Branch Historical Association.

Oct. 16 "Henry VIII". J. Scarisbrick, Ph.D.

Oct. 29 "William the Conqueror: history and legend".
Prof. D. Douglas, F.S.A.

Nov. 6 "Gloucestershire in Domesday". Dr. D. Walker.

Nov. 20 "Myths and Realities of the Wild West". P. Marshall, M.A.

For Six Formers only:

Oct. 10 "Tudor Soiree".

Oct. 17 Sixth Form Forum.

Oct. 29 Project Report "Siege of Gloucester".

Nov. 26 "History of Medecine". D. Sylvester.

Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society

Oct. 26 "Petra and Palestine". Rev. R. Elphick.

Nov. 23 "Discovery and Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls".
Prof. H. Wright Baker.

Dec. 7 "Hellens". Major M. Munthe, M.C.

Jan. 18 "Santiago de Compostella." R. Reece, B.Sc.

Feb. "Excavations in Rome". Mr. Ward Perkins.

Mar. 8 "Recent Work on Domesday Book". H. Loyn, M.A.

Mar. 22 "Cirencester Excavations 1964". J. Wachter, F.S.A.

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club.

Nov. 17 "Frocester Court Roman Villa". Capt. H.S. Gracie, F.S.A., R.N.

Dec. 10 "History and Modern Recording of Knowledge in Microscopic Form".
E.H. Duckworth, B.Sc.

Forest of Dean Local History Society.

Oct. 3 "Chairman's Choice". A.G.M.

Nov. 7 "Something about Canals".

Dec. 5 "Charities of William Jones". T. Bright, Esq.

Feb. Film Evening.

Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society.

Oct. 30 "Saving the Character of our Villages & Country Towns".
Mrs. Airy.

Nov. 27 "Three Ladies, Bless 'em". A. Pritchard, Esq.

Jan. 29 "National Trust in Gloucestershire". H. Mann, Esq.

Feb. 26 "The Beginnings of Landscape Painting". D. Milner, Esq.

Mar. 26 Colour Films. "Berkeley Vale" and "Basket Salmon Fishing
I in the Severn."

Alterations in: Officers of Archaeological and Historical Societies in Gloucestershire.

Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society.

Chairman: H.J. Clappen, Esq., Ridgeway, The Whiteway, Cirencester.