

REVIEW

The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese, 1250-1850, by E. A. Greening Lamborn. xxxi + 179 pp. and 64 plates, 5½ × 7½ inches. (Oxford University Press, for the Berkshire Archaeological Society. 30s. net.)

The claim of the publishers that 'no book similar to this has hitherto been written' is amply justified; and the Berkshire Archaeological Society is to be congratulated on sponsoring this valuable work, no less than the author for the material he has collected and the way he has presented it.

Mr. Lamborn is here able to indulge his well-known predilection for and skill in genealogy. It is especially valuable in this case, for it makes seemingly isolated pieces of heraldry take on a personality and gives them their proper local associations and setting.

The survey, of course, covers the three counties of Oxford, Buckingham, and Berkshire, though in this review we are more particularly concerned with the Buckinghamshire portion. The author, rightly, concerns himself almost exclusively with armorial glass in churches and chapels, since some limit had to be set to the bounds of such a large subject. Nevertheless, he does mention several examples in secular buildings. It seems a pity, therefore, that the glass in the hall window of the King's Head Hotel at Aylesbury is not included. This glass is admittedly much 'restored': nevertheless most of it is *in situ*, and is of considerable interest as an example of late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century work. Similarly, the glass from Place Farm, Wyrardisbury, now at Fulmer Grange, and the Kederminster panel in Langley Marish Church are not included.

In a work which is clearly of prime interest to the specialist, if not the expert, it is rather surprising that Mr. Lamborn takes so many pages in explaining the rudiments of heraldry. These very general remarks seem rather out of place in a work of this sort; the space might well have been used for listing the Oxford College glass, and the Windsor glass, which is deliberately excluded on the grounds that the former, at any rate, is adequately listed in the Royal Commission's Oxford City volume. More space is taken by the author's defence of his discipleship of the anglicising or simplifying of many heraldic terms—following St. John Hope's ideas. Though I must confess that Mr. Lamborn's rather naughty description of the late Mr. Fox Davies as 'propagandist-in-chief to the Heralds' College' gives me great pleasure!

On the other hand, the analysis and explanations of the technique of much of the later glass—the enamels, abradings, flashings, and finally the Edginton transparencies, etc.—are of great value and absorbing interest. I wonder if John Rowell of High Wycombe, the eighteenth-century plumber and glazier whose work occurs as far afield as Apethorpe in Northamptonshire, ever did any heraldic work that can be identified?

Since Mr. Lamborn made his lists, the Stoke Poges glass (or practically all of it) has been transferred to the Hastings Chapel, where it gains greatly in appearance, though it has not been very intelligently grouped. And the bomb-damaged chancel windows at Chesham Bois have all been rearranged and replaced, with some modern additions.

The illustrations are excellent, almost without exception; and the later, rather 'thin' glass reproduces surprisingly well. Most people are probably aware of the treasure we possess in the Chetwode shield of the thirteenth century, and the Bledlow shields; but I imagine few have appreciated till now the fine series of late armorial glass at Bradenham, Turville, Stoke Poges, Wotton Underwood, and elsewhere.

As Mr. Lamborn says, 'the heraldic treasures here recorded are but the vestiges of a squandered heritage'. We should, therefore, be all the more grateful for this learned and painstaking survey, and all the more zealous to preserve, and understand the significance of, what is left.

E. C. R.

SHORT NOTICE

A book which has some interest for Buckinghamshire antiquarians is *White Horses and other Hill Figures*, by Morris Marples. (Country Life, 21s.) This, in Chapter 7, pp. 137-158, contains a useful account of the Chiltern turf-cut white crosses at Bledlow and Whiteleaf. The author has assembled all the known facts and some of the theories about these figures, and his descriptions are well supported by the latest references—i.e. to Mawer and Stenton's *Place-Names* and Sir W. Lindsay Scott's article in *Antiquity*, vol. XI. There are diagrams and several excellent air and other views. It is a pity that Lipscomb, the county historian's name, has been wrongly spelt, an 'e' having been placed on the end.

THE SOCIETY

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society for 1949 was held on Saturday, 7th May, at Hazell's Hall, Aylesbury, when many members and a number of guests were present.

Canon R. F. Bale, Vice-President and Chairman of the Society's Council, presided.

Suggested amendments to the Society's Rules were submitted to the meeting by direction of the Council; after a lengthy discussion the following rules were amended and now read as follows (changed wording is in italics):

Rule 3.—The Society shall consist of ordinary and honorary members.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.—Every candidate for membership must be proposed by a member and duly elected at a General or Council meeting by a majority of those present and voting. The Honorary Secretary or Secretaries shall send, within ten days from the date of election, a copy of the Rules and notice of election to every new member. *Every member upon payment of his or her subscription shall become entitled to the rights and privileges of full membership, except that the receipt of the Society's annual publication, the Records of Buckinghamshire, shall be sent only to those members who subscribe £1 1s. or more per annum.*

(The paragraphs relating to Affiliated Societies and Honorary Members remain unchanged.)

Rule 4.—Each ordinary member or Affiliated Society shall pay an annual subscription of not less than Ten Shillings, to be due on the 1st day of January for the current year, or an ordinary member may compound for Life by one payment of *Fifteen Pounds*.

In Rule 5 the concluding sentence, which read '*but the President shall not hold that office for more than three successive years*', was deleted.

Three lectures were given during 1949, at Hazell's Hall, Aylesbury, and were well attended.

After the formal business of the annual general meeting, those present heard an interesting lecture on 'Medieval Morality Paintings in Bucks.', by Mr. Clive Rouse, F.S.A.

On 9th April, Professor A. E. Richardson, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., lectured on Georgian Architecture, giving a history of the development of architectural styles and illustrating the fine sense of proportion and style displayed by 18th-Century architects. He showed examples from many parts of England, including some of Buckinghamshire houses.

The autumn lecture, on 29th October, was given by Mr. G. S. Cansdale, B.A., F.L.S., the Superintendent of the London Zoological Society, on Some Animals of the West African Forests. He had lived for several years in the forest country, observing the animals' life, collecting not only specimens but many unusual and delightful pets. The photographs of deer and squirrels, of snakes and many others, were among the most fascinating which the Society has ever been privileged to see and it is hoped to have another opportunity of hearing a speaker of such charm and distinction.

A new departure this year has been the holding of Exhibitions by local Societies in the main hall of the Museum. The Aylesbury and District Camera Club had their Annual Exhibition there and the Aylesbury and District Art Society held their autumn show from 22nd October to 2nd November. Both displays proved an attraction to visitors.

The membership of the Society at the end of November 1949 was 663, which included 20 Affiliated Bodies.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

THE Natural History Section of the Bucks. Archaeological Society was started in 1947, and the number of members interested in the activities of the branch is steadily increasing, besides those who have specially joined the section.

Most meetings have been held in the field, but in 1950 it is hoped that there will be lectures and discussions as well.

Notices are sent to those members who have already notified the secretary of their wish to be included in the Natural History Section List. Further members will be welcomed if they will inform the secretary, Miss Stapleton, 159 Bicester Road, Aylesbury.

The Section has held the following Meetings and Excursions:

Saturday, 29th January.—Tring Reservoirs. Ornithological.

Sunday, 27th March.—Chalfont, Chess Valley. Ornithological.

Saturday, 16th April.—Hartwell Pits.

Saturday, 21st May.—Pitstone. Geological. In conjunction with the Geological Society.

Sunday, 22nd May.—Hyde Heath.

Sunday, 12th June.—Kew Gardens. Leader, Sir E. Salisbury.

Saturday, 18th June.—Woburn Park. By kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Bedford.

Saturday, 16th July.—Hartwell. Geological.

Sunday, 11th September.—Halton Reservoirs. Botanical and Ornithological.

Saturday, 29th October.—Hazzell's Theatre, Aylesbury. Lecture by G. S. Cansdale, Esq., Superintendent of the Royal Zoological Society's Gardens.

Saturday, 12th November.—Wendover. Fungus Foray.

Sunday, 11th December.—Tring Reservoirs. Ornithological.