

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS SOCIETY

by *L. M. Angus-Butterworth*
(*A Founder Member of the Society*)

THE ORIGINS OF THE SOCIETY AND JOHN SWARBRICK

Our Society owes an immense debt to John Swarbrick, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., F.S.A. (1879-1964) who, with the help of his many friends, was responsible for its foundation. His outlook is well expressed in a note he wrote in which he says: "From my schooldays I had greatly admired ancient buildings, and can well remember the delight that visits to some of our finest architectural remains gave me. When, in later years, I discovered the alarming rate at which ancient buildings had been demolished, and the no less rapid rate at which their destruction was proceeding, I was appalled, and resolved that I would make some effort to preserve for others the pleasures that had meant so much to me."

As a practical man he realized that to save old buildings meant dealing with difficult problems, some of which were financial. He appreciated, too, that much of the loss that was taking place was not entirely the result of wilful action, but often merely the outcome of either neglect or the lack of necessary funds.

At first Swarbrick had the impression that much might be done by the proper exercise of the powers contained in the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913. Upon becoming President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society in 1922 he advocated the formation of County Committees in Lancashire and Cheshire under the Ancient Monuments Board for England. The Committees were duly formed, the present writer serving on the one for Cheshire, but Swarbrick found that their powers were very limited. Such Committees could do little more than recommend that remains might be scheduled for protection under the Act. The Ancient Monuments Board did not always adopt the recommendations, even when made with absolute unanimity, and some of these disappointments did much to bring about irregular attendance at the meetings and lack of interest.

Swarbrick also tried, on a number of occasions, to get local archaeological societies to co-operate in joint action when ancient buildings were in danger of demolition. Considerable correspondence used to follow, and sometimes drawings and photographs had to be supplied. Finally, when it had been shown that the object was really a deserving one, it was sometimes too late to take action. Even when joint resolutions were sent, the local authorities and other parties concerned were in most cases quite unmoved by them.



JOHN SWARBRICK, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., F.S.A.
(1879-1964)

*Founder and first Hon. Secretary, Hon. Reporting Architect 1925-50,
Chairman 1950-52, Vice-President 1952-64.*

Swarbrick accordingly became convinced that to check destruction it was necessary to have a Society solely for the purpose.

THE FOUNDATION

The Ancient Monuments Society was formally constituted at a meeting in the John Rylands Library, Manchester, on 2 June, 1924. The Chairman was Sir Henry A. Miers, D.Sc., LL.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., then Vice-Chancellor of the Manchester University, and an address was given by Professor T. F. Tout, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.

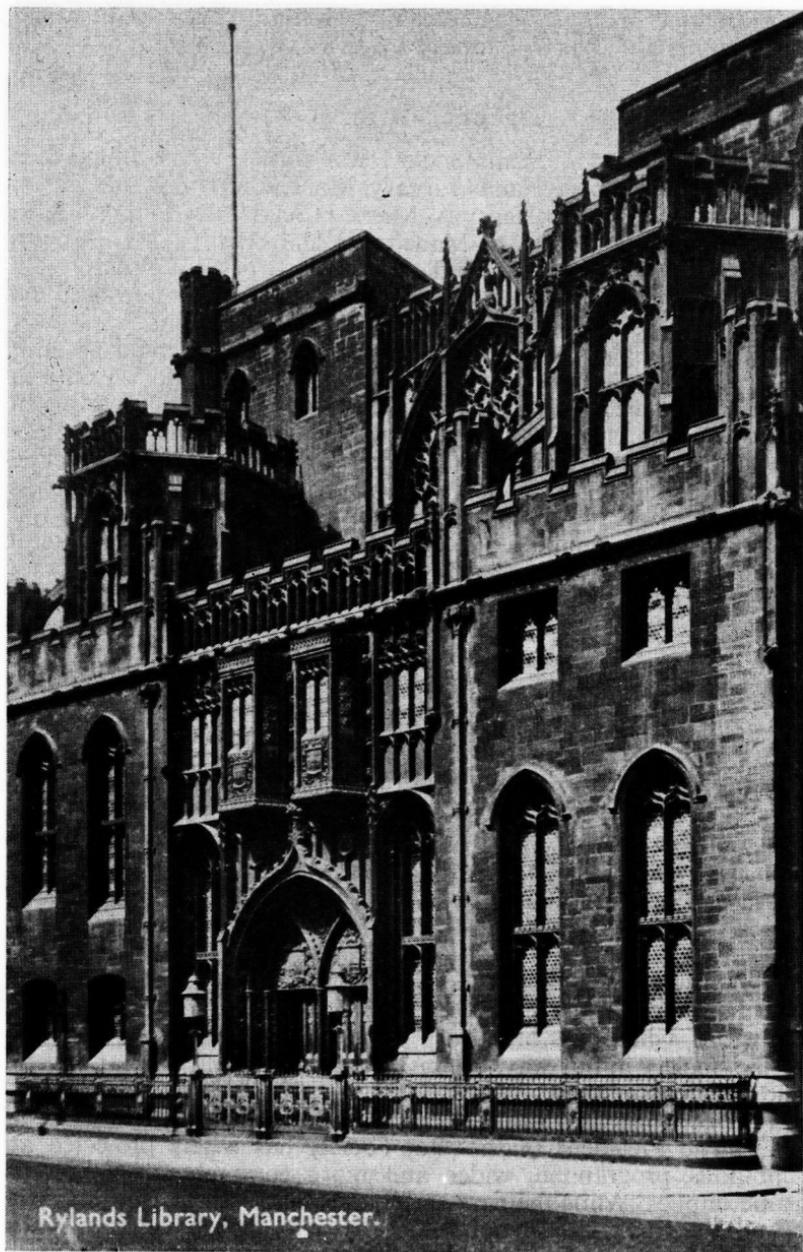
Ancient Monuments, said Professor Tout, had diminished and soon would be almost extinct. The new Society would have been more useful eighty or a hundred years ago than it could be now, because by this time the most ancient monuments had been swept away or had been rebuilt under the specious guise of restoration. Very few churches were now in the condition they were in the Middle Ages; the architects had improved them, cleaned them, and regulated their symmetry regardless of the fact that they had grown up gradually after quite a different fashion. The demon of restoration and demolition, whether it was moved by the highest or the worst motives, was fighting to sweep away the history that remained in the monuments of this country.

"Whether", concluded Professor Tout, "the ancient monument is a Roman camp, a Queen Anne house, or a neo-classical building of the early nineteenth century, they have all had their part in the history of this country, and, preserved, they all tend to diversify the monotony of modern life, and ought at all costs to be saved".

A year after its foundation the Society received a strong impetus through the kindness of one of its members, Colonel Sir Frederick J. West, C.B.E., M.Inst., C.E., J.P. At this time Sir Frederick was Lord Mayor of Manchester, and on 9 October, 1925, he and the Lady Mayoress held a Reception in the Town Hall to meet the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T., F.S.A., F.R.S. in his capacity as President of the Ancient Monuments Society.

The occasion proved a very happy one, with "Refreshments and Music in the State Apartments" following the formal reception. The highlight of the evening, however, was an address by Lord Crawford, which was broadcast. Considerable attention was drawn to the Society in this way, because broadcasting was a great novelty and still in its infancy.

Part of Lord Crawford's speech was printed in a publication of 1926. The President said: "Our Society has wisely projected an ambitious programme, wider and more comprehensive than its name implies. While the care and maintenance of old buildings will doubtless provide the chief field of activity, much valuable work can be done in other directions, analogous to and parallel with this principal objective. We must confess our heedlessness in the past, and particularly in industrial Lancashire. Yorkshire has been pretty drastic, too, but can at least offer that incomparable sequence



Rylands Library, Manchester.

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of ecclesiastical buildings, some of them still in wonderful condition. Elsewhere in the northern counties much survives, such as the remains of the Roman Wall, many curious little buildings adorning the distant valleys and hillsides of North Wales, together with a reasonable number of earthworks and prehistoric monuments."

In concluding his account of the field of work open to the Society our first President said: "I can indeed urge the claim of this movement with conviction. Our success will depend upon the response to our plea for increased membership—valuable in the first place as enlarging the resources of the Society, but still more useful in that it will enable us to keep well informed as to suitable fields of our activity, and enabling us when an emergency arises to appeal to a large and influential body of public opinion, which will be the controlling agency in carrying our ideas into effect."

Lord Crawford entertained the Council of the Society on a number of occasions at Haigh Hall, his seat near Wigan, and by his invitation the Annual General Meeting of 1937 was held there. The attendance was about a hundred and forty, a record up to that time, and the members and their friends were received in the famous library, of which Edward Baines, the historian of Lancashire writes: "The Library at Haigh Hall, consisting of nearly 50,000 volumes, is one of the finest private libraries in the country, indeed in the world, and contains specimens of many of the rarest works".

To commemorate the visit there had been arranged a special exhibition which, in addition to many splendidly bound volumes, included German engravings, chronicles, etc., from 1475 to 1519; French drawings and engravings from 1493; and many English royal proclamations and other documents from 1603. Printed copies of an account of the exhibits by the President, entitled *Bibliotheca Lindesiana. Visit of the Ancient Monuments Society, June 5th, 1937*, were distributed to the visitors. This is now an item eagerly sought by bibliophiles.

In ways like this our first President gave devoted service to the Society, and did much to enable it to become firmly established in the years immediately before the second World War. His death in 1940 was a great loss. The Council elected Lord Crawford's son an Honorary Member and a Vice-President, in recognition of his father's long and outstanding services to the Society.

EARLY OBJECTIVES

From the outset the aims of the Ancient Monuments Society were wide in scope, being defined as "the study and conservation of ancient monuments, historic buildings and fine old craftsmanship". There is a close interrelationship between these elements, for craftsmanship is part and parcel of the fabric which it adorns. York Minster, when bereft of its stained glass during the 1939-45

war, lost half its glory. How serious, too, the loss would be if some of our village churches lost their delightful carved oak screens, or their fascinating old fountains, which our forbears have preserved proudly through the centuries.

The interpretation of these objectives has remained very flexible, so that prehistoric earthworks, a Roman amphitheatre and monastic remains have been excavated; and help has been given in various ways with religious buildings ranging from cathedrals to small parish churches, and with secular ones from Norman castles to manor houses, windmills and cottages.

John Swarbrick, our founder, was a man of vision who also possessed much practical experience in the architectural and antiquarian fields. It is accordingly remarkable how accurately the early activities foreshadowed those that were to come later.

From the beginning the Society undertook wide-ranging enterprises, and if, in the pages which follow, we examine some typical examples of these in detail they may serve to give a clear picture of the whole. Thus an early triumph was to secure the re-routing of a main road which, as originally planned, would have been driven right through Hough End Hall, the Elizabethan Manor House of Manchester. Similarly some years later prompt action by the Society led to a fresh route being chosen for an arterial road which as first projected would have destroyed much of the ancient walled town of Conway.

At its foundation the Society assumed responsibility for the Cockersand Abbey Exploration Committee, which had been formed in the previous year, and active excavation work was carried on there. In 1933 the timber circle at Bleasdale, between Preston and Lancaster, was excavated under the direction of Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson, D.Sc., F.G.S. and Mr. W. J. Varley, members of the Council of the Society. Other work of this kind done in the years immediately before the second World War included the excavation of the Chester Roman Amphitheatre, and the Roman road over Blackstone Edge, near Rochdale. Interest in this field of conservation has continued; thus in 1961 the help of the Society was sought over two prehistoric barrows on Ditchingham and Broom Heath in Norfolk, threatened by gravel diggings. Representations were made by our Council, and the danger was averted.

Much help has been given in connexion with old churches. Thus over many years very valuable reparation work has been accomplished at the old church of Warburton in Cheshire. Grants have been made to scores of parish churches in rural areas which were suffering from the death-watch beetle and in 1935 the Council sent a donation to a fund for the repair of the roof of Ripon Cathedral, which has also been ravaged by the death-watch beetle—the campaign for raising the necessary money was being most actively led by the then Dean, the Very Rev. Dr. Charles Mansfield Owen, who was in his eighty-fourth year. In 1948 assistance was given to Manchester Cathedral for the repair of war damage.

The Society raised a fund for the repair of the Weeton Windmill, on the Lancashire coast, and eventually arranged for it to become the headquarters of a local Scout group. Other windmills with which the Society concerned itself were those at Lund and Marton in Lancashire, Looe in Cornwall, and Guy's Cliff in Warwickshire. The Society also joined forces with two local societies in a successful appeal for funds to repair the old watermill at Nether Alderley in Cheshire.

On a number of occasions the Society has been asked to accept the ownership of important historic buildings, among them being Beeston Castle in Cheshire. Shortly before the second World War it was proposed that an Ancient Monuments Trust Ltd. should be formed to hold such properties, but the outbreak of war made it impossible to carry this into effect at that time.

HOUGH END HALL, LANCASHIRE

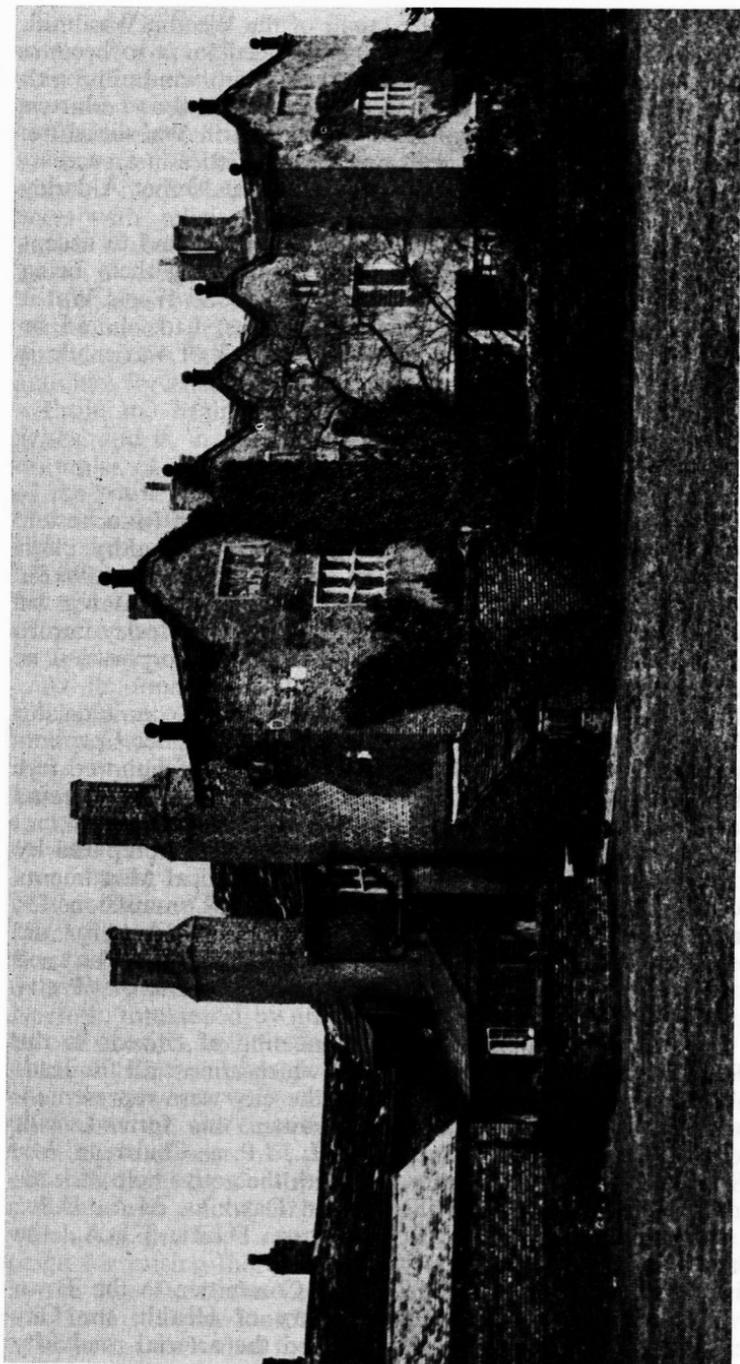
The historic Hough End Hall, on the south side of Manchester, was built about 1596 by Sir Nicholas Mosley, a wealthy cloth merchant who became Lord Mayor of London. In the year 1596 Sir Nicholas purchased for £3,500 the lordship of the Manor of Manchester, which remained in the possession of the Mosley family for nearly 250 years, until sold to the Manchester Corporation in 1845 for £200,000.

In the spring of 1921 Mr. John Swarbrick, when examining the provisional Town Planning Scheme B of the Manchester Corporation, fortunately noticed that Arterial Road No. 10, a hundred feet wide, was shown passing through Hough End Hall and the remains of the axial avenue of trees by which it was approached.

In the absence of any inventory such as those later prepared by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of England, and by the similar Commissions for Scotland and Wales, the City Council had been misled, for the Elizabethan Manor House of Manchester, having come to be used as a farmhouse, appeared only under its popular name of "Pretty Peacock Farm".

Mr. Swarbrick urgently organized a meeting of citizens in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, at which almost all the leading cultural and antiquarian societies in the city were represented. A Hough End Hall Preservation Committee was formed, with Colonel Alan F. McClure, C.B., T.D., D.L., J.P. as Chairman, Mr. John Swarbrick as Hon. Secretary, and with the active help of leading antiquaries such as Sir William Boyd Dawkins, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.S.A. and Professor T. F. Tout, D.Litt, F.B.A., the historian.

Owing to representations made by the Committee to the Town Clerk of Manchester and to the Ministry of Health, the City Council reconsidered its plans and diverted the arterial road fifty



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HOUGH END HALL

yards from the Hall, thus for the moment saving it and most of what remained of its ancient avenue approach.

Although the Corporation thus altered the line of the new main road, the future of this important historic building had not been assured, and accordingly the Preservation Committee remained in being and became associated with the Ancient Monuments Society when the latter body was established in 1924. The fate of Hough End Hall remained a major pre-occupation of the Society for many years, a variety of schemes being devised to secure its welfare.

In 1932, in order to make progress with this continuing problem, the Executive appointed a special Committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Council, Professor Herbert J. Fleure, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., F.S.A.; Dr. E. Bosdin Leech, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth, the Hon. Secretary; and Mr. John Swarbrick, the Hon. Reporting Architect. A number of possible uses for the Hall were explored, among them being:—

- (1) An advanced Art Gallery or Museum for Manchester.
- (2) A Hall of Residence for the Manchester University.
- (3) A home for a number of learned societies, including the Ancient Monuments Society itself.

It was found that Hough End Hall had remained structurally complete, and was in a remarkably good state of preservation. The owner, Lord Egerton of Tatton, expressed willingness to give the Hall if a suitable use could be found for it, this being the first occasion on which ownership of property was offered to the Society. He stipulated, however, that the farmer's widow should have right of tenancy for the rest of her life, and this restricted the use of the building for an indefinite period.

The Art Galleries Committee of the Manchester Corporation were asked to consider using the place as a branch gallery, and at first were enthusiastic. Sir Oswald Mosley showed great interest in the project, and wrote in August, 1933, to say that although he no longer had any connection with the house, he would be willing to give pictures, furniture, or anything associated with the family history if the Hall were turned into a museum. He specifically mentioned the carved oak bedstead presented by Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Nicholas Mosley; a long carved oak settle marked "N.M.1596"; and a carved oak sideboard marked "N.M.". Sir Oswald also offered a portrait of Sir Nicholas copied by Tonneau from the original in Chetham's Hospital, Manchester, and a print inscribed "Sir Nicholas Mosley—Clothworker, Lord Mayor of the City of London 1599".

The generous offer of these Mosley mementoes was a considerable encouragement, but unfortunately it was found upon closer examination that the cost of supervising art treasures in a multiplicity of small rooms, such as those at Hough End, would be prohibitive, and the City fathers decided not to proceed.

Next the University of Manchester was approached, and reached

a decision that the building could well be converted for use as a hall of residence, the many small rooms being an advantage for this purpose. The grounds, too, would have been admirable for recreational purposes. When negotiations were at an advanced stage, however, everything was brought to a standstill because the financial state of the country, in the middle of the industrial depression, caused the Government of the day to cut severely its grants to Universities for capital outlay.

In retrospect it is remarkable that the Society persevered with its work in the face of constant discouragement and disappointment, the campaign to save Hough End Hall being a case in point. A further attempt was made in November, 1936, when a fresh committee was formed with the aim of securing the Hall as a memorial of the coronation of King George VI. The Coronation Memorial Committee, of which Mr. Angus-Butterworth acted as Hon. Secretary, was representative of the Ancient Monuments Society, the Royal Manchester Institution, the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts, the Design and Industries Association, the Red Rose Guild of Art Workers, and other societies. A Petition was drawn up, reading as follows:—

Coronation Memorial

Petition to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Manchester.

We, the undersigned, express the earnest hope that a suitable permanent Memorial of the Coronation of King George VI may be provided in Manchester, and we are of the opinion that Hough End Hall, the picturesque Elizabethan Manor House, and the land around it, should be secured for the City by the Corporation, and suitably preserved. The surrounding land might be added to the adjoining Public Park and laid out as an ornamental flower garden in the Elizabethan manner.

The scheme met with strong public support and in about a month more than 5,000 signatures to the petition had been obtained. Among the signatories were Lord Crawford, Chancellor of the Manchester University; Dr. Guy Warman, Bishop of Manchester; Dr. Garfield Williams, Dean of Manchester; Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury; Judge T. B. Leigh; Sir William Davy; Sir Christopher Needham; Sir Arthur Haworth; Mr. E. A. Radford, M.P.; and Mr. R. A. Dawson, Principal of the Manchester College of Art.

On 18 January, 1937, a deputation waited upon the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall to present the Petition. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Joseph Toole, was accompanied by the City Architect, Mr. G. Noel Hill. Professor H. J. Fleure, who headed and introduced the deputation, was accompanied by Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth,

honorary secretary of the Coronation Memorial Committee; Professor James Tait, an authority on Old Manchester; Dr. E. Bosdin Leech, chairman of the Ancient Monuments Society, and Mr. John Swarbrick, its reporting architect; Mr. W. Maxwell Reekie, president, and Colonel G. F. Falkner, honorary secretary of the Royal Manchester Institution; Alderman George Westcott, president of the Manchester Society of Architects; and Alderman Will Melland.

Dr. Bosdin Leech, one of whose ancestors was Borough Reeve of Manchester at the time that Hough End Hall was built at the end of the sixteenth century, directed the Lord Mayor's attention to the number of similar buildings that had been preserved by local authorities, among them Aston Hall, Birmingham; Wollaton Hall, Nottingham; Hall-i'-th'-Wood, Bolton; and Red Lodge, Bristol. For several of these buildings the authorities preserving them had found appropriate uses that made them a distinct addition to local amenities. In the same way Hough End Hall, being in excellent structural condition, as well as being so ancient and so interesting, held the possibility of some useful and agreeable future if the city could secure it. Only by transfer to the city could the future of the Hall, one of the district's greatest treasures, be safe from the hands of the builder, or even from being removed, as occurred with Agecroft Hall, to the United States.

The Corporation appeared to be favourably disposed towards the undertaking, but showed characteristic reluctance to allocate any funds for the purpose, its record in the cultural field being an unenviable one. In normal times delay might not have been of great consequence, but as the war clouds gathered attention became concentrated upon other things, and the opportunity was lost. After the war, in spite of fresh efforts which the Society made, Hough End Hall fell into the hands of developers who, in the course of extensive rebuilding, largely destroyed its character.

KERSAL CELL, SALFORD

The Coronation Memorial Committee did not confine itself to Hough End Hall, but envisaged a similar memorial for Manchester's sister city of Salford. Although named as a separate manor in Domesday Book, and granted a charter as a free town by Ranulf de Blundeville in 1230, Salford had preserved few evidences of antiquity. An exception was Kersal Cell, a timber-framed house of the sixteenth century with some Elizabethan decoration, standing on the site of Lenton Priory, a Cluniac house.

A Petition on the same lines as the Manchester one was issued, in which it was noted that the picturesque Kersal Cell had been the home of Dr. John Byrom (1692-1763), the author of "Christians Awake", and that the land surrounding it might suitably be added to the adjoining playing fields, after being laid out as an ornamental flower garden.

The historic residence could have been purchased for £5,000,

even then a very modest price, and the owner offered to reduce this by £500 if the scheme succeeded. The support of several prominent citizens was gained, but general interest was lacking in a commercially-minded place which had been experiencing a prolonged period of bad trade. Little progress was made, and the attempt had to be abandoned.

COCKERSAND ABBEY

Early in 1923 the Cockersand Abbey Exploration Committee was established jointly by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, and the Chorley Historic Society. In the summer of that year active work was undertaken in exploring the site, and in December, 1923, John Swarbrick read a notable paper on the Abbey. This was one of the first investigations of the kind to be begun after the ending of the first World War.

The Premonstratensian Abbey of St. Mary-of-the-Marsh at Cockersand, on a desolate part of the Lancashire coast, took its origin from a hermitage founded about 1180 by Hugh Garth, a recluse held in great reverence locally. The hermitage gave place to a hospital for the infirm and lepers. Rapid progress was made, and a priory and then an abbey followed on the same site.

In a charter of 1201 King John confirmed the canons in possession of their lands, and it is recorded that the Abbey suffered severely during the Scottish invasion of 1316. Queen Elizabeth I in June, 1596, granted the possessions of the dissolved monastery of Cockersand to Robert Dalton by letters patent.

At its foundation the Ancient Monuments Society took over responsibility for the Cockersand Abbey Exploration Committee. When the work was completed, however, the excavations proved a danger to grazing sheep and cattle, and the Executive in 1932 voted the sum necessary to fill them in as a protective measure. Detailed plans were placed in the Society's archives.

SAMLESBURY OLD HALL

The case of Samlesbury Old Hall, near Blackburn in Lancashire, was an early triumph of our Society. Through the initiative taken by John Swarbrick at a critical time, the Hall was saved and has continued to be cared for until the present day. It is now the home of the Samlesbury Hall Trust and provides accommodation for the headquarters of the Lancashire Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Henry Whittaker, F.S.A., a leading Blackburn solicitor who later became the Chairman of the Samlesbury Hall Trust, has described what happened. Almost immediately after the war of 1914-1918 the Samlesbury Hall estate was sold piecemeal. The farms, in most

cases, were acquired by their respective tenants, while the hall and its grounds passed to a Blackburn firm of builders and contractors. Fearing drastic alterations or a possible demolition, a meeting was called at Preston on 11 October, 1924, at the instance of the Ancient Monuments Society, to consider what might be done to save the building and, if deemed necessary, to form a committee for that purpose.

Dr. F. C. Larkin, F.R.C.S., of Liverpool, a member of the Council of the Ancient Monuments Society, presided, and John Swarbrick, then Hon. Secretary, gave details of an inspection of the building which he had made on behalf of the Society. After some discussion, Henry Whittaker moved, and Professor J. P. Droop of the Liverpool University seconded, a motion that a public meeting be called at an early date to consider the question of purchasing the Hall and putting it in the hands of a public trust. The proposed meeting was duly held at the Town Hall, Blackburn, on Saturday, 22 November, 1924, and at it the Samesbury Hall Preservation Committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. A. Davies.

The Preservation Committee drafted an appeal for funds, and this was forwarded to the Ancient Monuments Society for approval before being issued to the public. Nearly £3,000 was raised in this way, and in June, 1925, Samesbury Hall and its grounds, including six acres of land and outbuildings, were purchased for £2,750. The property was conveyed to five local men, who became the first Trustees. They were: Dr. Sivewright A. Davies, Thomas Boys Lewis, John W. Marsden, Frank Morton and Henry Whittaker.

Upon the death of Dr. Davies on 18 January, 1929, Thomas Boys Lewis, M.A., F.S.A., was appointed Chairman of the Samesbury Hall Trust, and it was largely owing to his munificence and the great and abiding interest he took in the Hall, that it was possible to carry on the work of restoration. In addition he furnished the Hall with what is probably the finest collection of English and foreign cabinets to be found in this country.

T. B. Lewis died on the 9th day of September, 1942. By his will he bequeathed the sum of £12,000, the income of which was to go to the maintenance of the Hall and grounds, and a further sum of £5,000 for the same purpose on the death of his widow. Attached to the Hall was what became known as the "Holmes Gallery", a gallery of paintings by Sir Charles Holmes, sometime Director of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. These industrial scenes, mostly in the Blackburn district, were painted at the request and cost of Mr. Lewis, who was at Eton and Cambridge with Sir Charles.

WARBURTON OLD CHURCH

One of the earliest achievements of the Ancient Monuments Society was the reparation of the ancient timber-framed church of Warburton in Cheshire. In 1925 a Warburton Old Church Com-



National Monuments Record

WARBURTON OLD CHURCH

mittee, affiliated to the Society, was formed under the chairmanship of the Very Rev. F. S. M. Bennett, M.A., then Dean of Chester, and with L. M. Angus-Butterworth as Hon. Treasurer. The Committee undertook the task of raising £2,000, equivalent to many times that figure in the depreciated currency of today. The full amount was raised in less than two years.

The village of Warburton still retains its rural character, and the church has fortunately never undergone systematic restoration. The church has been described by T. A. Coward as one of the three most ancient in the county, and Professor G. E. Street, the authority on ecclesiastical architecture, believed that the timber framing might date from the twelfth century. Whether it is so ancient we can only surmise, but there can be no doubt that it is of very great antiquity, and may possibly date from that remote time when the structure belonged to the Abbot and Canons of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Cockersand, near Lancaster.

The work of reparation was conducted with the utmost care under the professional advice of Mr. John Swarbrick, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E. Where some timbers needed renewal the Committee was fortunate in having placed at its disposal some of great age which had been saved when Birch Hall, Rusholme, had been demolished a few years previously, and which had since been stored by the Earl of Stamford at Dunham Massey Hall. Those used were shaped by hand with the adze in the ancient manner.

Soon after the work was completed the Parish erected a commemorative plaque on the south interior wall bearing the inscription:—

“To the Glory of God and in memory of Geoffrey Egerton-Warburton, the revered Rector of this parish for forty-seven years, 1872-1919. This church was restored by his parishioners and friends with the assistance of the Ancient Monuments Society. A.D. 1927.”

The success of the appeal was the result of splendid support from many quarters. The Earl of Stamford twice opened Dunham Massey Hall, and on the second occasion arranged a special exhibit of his magnificent 18th century family silver; the Hon. Mrs. Lettice Waters, whose first husband, Captain John Egerton-Warburton, had been tragically killed in the first World War, gave a garden-party in the beautiful grounds at Arley Hall; and Mrs. Davies of Bramall Hall, on opening her home, made the occasion a festive one by hiring a brass band to play martial music on the terrace.

In July, 1936, upon the invitation of the then Rector of Warburton and Mr. T. Newton of “The Pines”, Warburton, members paid a visit to the Old Church; the early 17th century Tithe Barn at Bent Farm; and other features of interest in the locality. Tea was provided, as the parishioners wished to show in this way their appreciation of the work of the Society in connection with the reparation of the old church.

The intimate association with the Society was maintained and when in 1957 more structural repairs were found to be necessary,

these were done under the guidance of Dr. William A. Singleton, F.R.I.B.A., who was then serving on our Council.

The latest chapter in the continuing story dates from 1971, when Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, M.A., F.S.A., as Chairman of the Redundant Churches Fund, authorized a grant for further work, admirably executed under Dr. T. L. Marsden, M.A., B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., then Hon. Architect and now Vice-Chairman of the Ancient Monuments Society.

THE CHESTER ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE

In the early days of the Society several special appeals were issued. Thus in May, 1932, a joint appeal for £8,000 was made to save the Roman Amphitheatre at Chester. In the course of excavations which had then recently been made, remains had been revealed of a structure ranking among the largest and most important of its kind erected in this country during the Roman occupation. It was capable of holding 9,000 spectators, and R. G. Collingwood described it as "a relic of altogether exceptional interest and in every way finer than Caerleon".

Unfortunately the Chester City Council had arranged for a road to be driven across the northern half of the site before the facts had become fully known, and they were unwilling to change their plans unless funds were forthcoming immediately for the conservation of the amphitheatre. With the help of the Chester and North Wales Architectural, Archaeological and Historic Society, the required amount was raised in a very short time, and the line of the new road was deflected.

The prompt action on the part of our Society had important consequences. The Office of Works was so impressed by the value and significance of the discovery of remains which eminent authorities declared were likely to prove by far the finest known example of the legionary amphitheatre that they undertook to defray the cost of fully excavating the northern half of the site, which at the time was the only part available. The results were as valuable as had been anticipated.

MACCLESFIELD CASTLE, CHESHIRE

Quite frequently, in spite of our Society making every possible effort, precious ancient buildings were ruthlessly destroyed. In such cases it became the policy of the Council to pay for photographs to be taken and plans to be prepared, to form a record of significant or attractive features. Hundreds of such items are preserved in the Society's archives. As an instance of the kind of thing in question we may consider the case of Macclesfield Castle in Cheshire.

The ruined tower and other remains of Macclesfield Castle, after being hidden for a hundred years by cottages, shops and works

premises, were revealed again in 1932. In that year the owner, Mr. J. H. Cutts, sold his property to Messrs. Marks and Spencer Ltd., after reserving the old tower for presentation to the borough.

The Ancient Monuments Society followed its normal practice in forming a Committee of local residents having special knowledge, together with nominees of its own. The Macclesfield Castle Preservation Committee had Major David Halstead, M.P., T.D., D.L., F.S.A., as Chairman; with the Vicar of Macclesfield, the Rev. Norman Agmondisham Vesey, M.A.; Mr. John Swarbrick; Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth; and Miss Christine H. Windridge Wragg as Hon. Secretary.

The Committee approached Messrs. Marks and Spencer to try and arrange for the ruins to be left *in situ*. The Company would not agree to this, but generously promised the Committee £50 towards the cost of removal. The Vicar of Macclesfield was asked if he would allow the tower to be re-erected in the graveyard of the Parish Church, and readily agreed, subject to the consent of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Unfortunately this scheme was rejected as no buildings other than an extension to the church could be erected in a closed graveyard. A lych gate scheme followed, as the Committee thought this would be allowed as an extension of the Church buildings, but again they met with disappointment. Various sites were then discussed with the Borough Council, without a satisfactory solution being found.

Macclesfield Castle was associated with John de Macclesfield, who was Mayor of the town in 1358, and Jordan de Macclesfield, who was Mayor in 1377. Another John de Macclesfield, Clerk and Senior Keeper of the Wardrobe to Richard II, in 1398 petitioned the King to allow him to "embattle and crenellate with stone and lime his chambers recently commenced at his place or mansion in Macclesfield and to hold the same so crenellated to himself and his heirs for ever; also a grant of six oaks from the woods at Lyme, for the same building." Ownership passed in 1442 to Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, who received quit claims from Ralph de Macclesfield and others.

The Society employed an architect to make careful measured drawings of the remains of the Castle. The chief remains consisted of two stone archways with a vaulted roof between, each boss of which was differently carved. Two of the bosses were in a state of good preservation, one consisting of a Tudor Rose, the other of a design of acorns and oak leaves. There was also part of the old tower wall, containing a window with tracery and canopy richly carved. The original drawings of these were deposited with the Macclesfield Town Council, and copies were added to the archives of our own Society.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS TRUST LTD.

A Holding Company Sub-Committee of the Ancient Monuments

Society was formed in 1934 to consider the formation of the Trust. The members were Professor Herbert J. Fleure, M.A., D.Sc., F.S.A. (Chairman); Mr. John Swarbrick (Hon. Architect); Mr. Alan T. S. Holt (Hon. Treasurer); and Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth (Hon. Secretary); assisted by Mr. W. A. Nixon, F.C.A., partner in Messrs. Alfred Nixon, Son & Turner, Chartered Accountants of Manchester.

In the Report and Recommendations submitted to the Council it was proposed:—

1. That the title should be as above.
2. That the Trust should be a Public Company.
3. That the Nominal Share Capital should be £5,000.
4. That the Issued Share Capital should be £7, as seven signatories would be required for a public company, the proposal being that each should take a £1 share.
5. That Standard Articles of Association should be used, to avoid the cost of special printing.

It was proposed that the objects should be:—

- (a) To acquire Ancient Monuments, Historic Buildings and the like by purchase, lease, gift or otherwise.
- (b) To undertake the repair and maintenance of such properties.
- (c) To act as expert advisors in the reparation of ancient buildings, and to make contributions and donations for the preservation and upkeep of any such buildings.

Although the project had to be abandoned because of the outbreak of the second World War, it may well be revived at some future date. One of the first structures offered to the Society in this way was the historic Beeston Castle in Cheshire, erected in Norman times and dismantled in the Civil War, which the owner felt unable to maintain.

The need for such a Trust continues to become evident from time to time. An example was when in July, 1961, the policy of accepting the custody of ancient buildings was considered by the Council of the Society with particular reference to King John's Hunting Box at Romsey. Fears were then expressed that the acceptance of such properties into the ownership of the Society might involve a greater strain on our resources than could be envisaged at that time.

BRAMALL HALL, CHESHIRE

In March, 1935, the Hazel Grove District Council purchased Bramall Hall, Cheshire, described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "one of the four best timber-framed mansions of England" and the accompanying estate of sixty-three acres. Some months later the Council of the Ancient Monuments Society received information



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BRAMALL HALL, CHESHIRE

that conversion of this splendid example of Tudor magpie architecture into municipal offices was contemplated, and that substantial structural alterations might be involved.

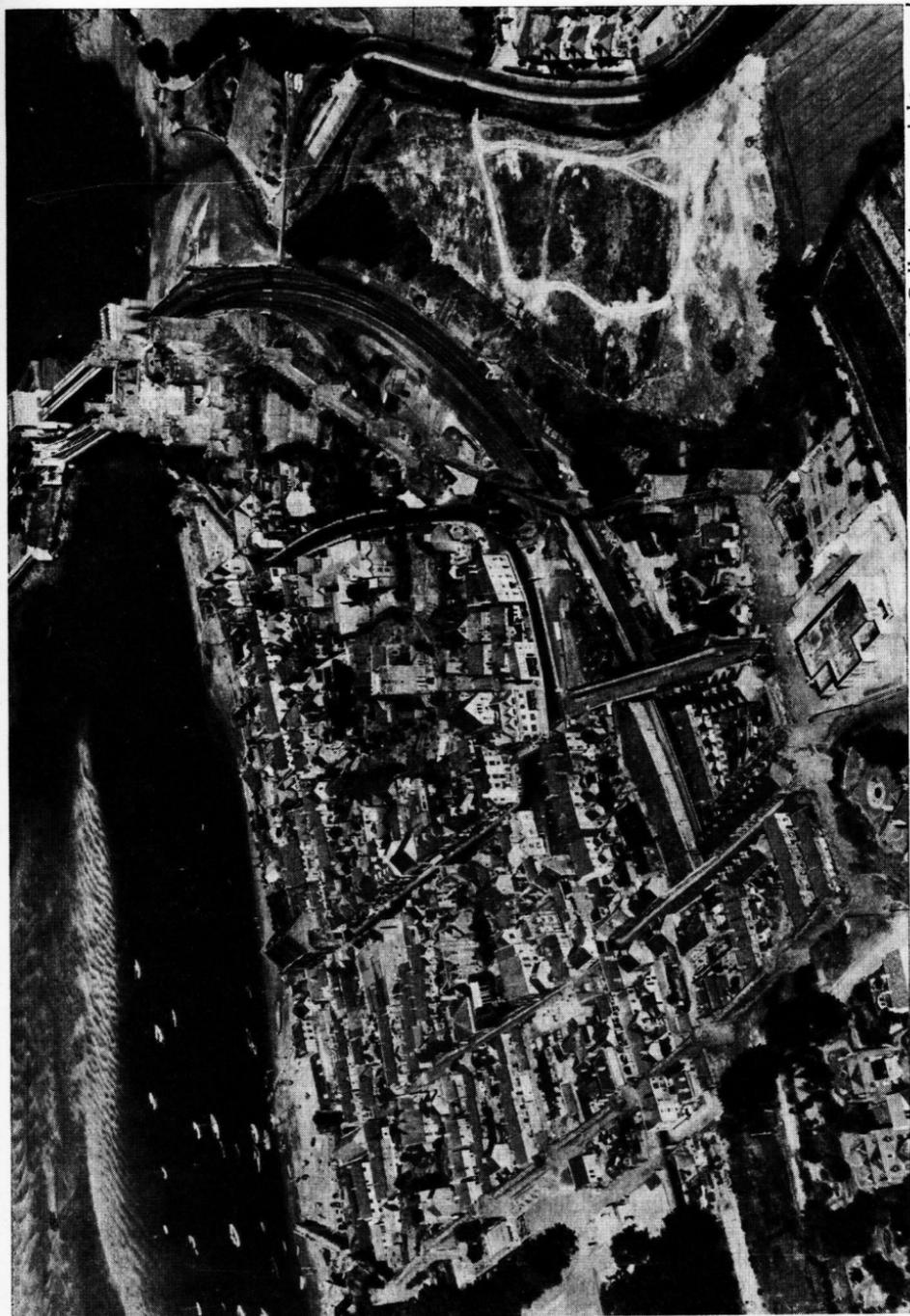
It was felt desirable to indicate to the new owners ways in which our Society considered the premises could be used to special advantage. A letter was accordingly sent to the local authority in the hope that it might lead to the establishing of a Folk Museum, on the lines of the Hôtel de Cluny in Paris or the Hôtel d'Assézat in Toulouse. It was pointed out that it adds greatly to the charm of such a place when, as at Bramall Hall, there are attractive gardens.

In consequence of our letter members of the Council of the Society were invited to visit the Hall, and the visit took place on Wednesday, 15 April, 1936. Our Society was represented by Professor John Morley, Mr. Aubrey Herbert, Dr. Joseph E. Spence, Mr. John Swarbrick, Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson, Dr. William Brockbank and Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth. An official welcome was received from Councillor L. K. Galloway, LL.B., J.P., Chairman of the Hazel Grove District Council, who was supported by Councillor Herbert Johnson, Chairman of the Parks and Estates Committee, and by Mr. F. E. Capper, Clerk of the Council.

Our Society was requested to make formal recommendations for the future welfare and use of the Hall. At a subsequent meeting of our Council it was resolved to invite Sir Percy Worthington, Litt.D., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., one of our Vice-Presidents, and Mr. John Swarbrick, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., to prepare a suitable report. After these officers had made a detailed inspection of the fabric they wrote a report which was very much appreciated by the Hazel Grove Council, who readily adopted the recommendations made in it. The action which the Society took is responsible for the fact that Bramall Hall is now one of the famous English Country Houses open to the public.

CONWAY

The Ancient Monuments Society has always had many good friends and supporters in North Wales, and has done a considerable amount of work in the area. It was thus with much anxiety that the Executive received news, at a meeting held on 12 December, 1935, that there was serious danger of a great new highway being driven through the old town of Conway, which would destroy many historic features, and completely change the character of the place. It was resolved to communicate with Mr. Hore-Belisha, then Minister of Transport, to express the point of view of those interested in antiquities. The following letters were exchanged:—



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CONWAY FROM THE AIR

*To the Rt. Hon. Leslie Hore-Belisha, P.C., M.P.,
Ministry of Transport, Westminster, S.W.1.*

(Copy sent to the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, O.M., M.P.)

9th February, 1936

Dear Sir,

Arterial Road and Proposed Bridge, Conway, North Wales

We have been desired to write to you, on behalf of the Ancient Monuments, which, as you are probably aware, has been active for many years in connection with the preservation of ancient buildings and the preservation of amenities in various parts of the country. Some time ago a report was received regarding a proposed bridge and arterial road which, it was feared, might seriously detract from the charm and historic interest of the mediaeval town and Castle of Conway. Conway, as you are aware, is an almost perfect example of the lay-out of an old mediaeval town, with the city walls, gateway and historic Castle still in existence. The Parish Church, too, is one of special interest. To modernise such a small town by widening its thoroughfares or carrying an arterial road through it would, we believe, practically destroy the value and historic interest of this almost unique example of mediaeval town life.

The problem you have to deal with is unquestionably a difficult one, as bridges and arterial roads are essential, in order to maintain the services of the country as a whole; but we believe that in this case the difficulty could be overcome in a comparatively simple way. We wish to take the opportunity of placing before you a method of overcoming the transport difficulties which seems to us to be the best possible solution in this case. So far as we are able to judge, the only satisfactory way of continuing the Holyhead main road from the Llandudno Junction side of the river towards Llanfairfechan would be to form a by-pass, and to leave the present entrance to Conway over the suspension bridge more or less intact, as at present. We imagine that it ought not to be beyond the capacity of capable engineers to devise some way of carrying the main arterial road across the estuary of the Conway in such a manner as to pass Conway on the seaward side, keeping entirely outside the town walls, and to join up to the existing road on the Conway Morfa. In that way the Penmaenbach tunnel could be reached without having to pass through Conway at all.

The only thing that can be done satisfactorily with Conway, in our view, is to treat it as a Museum piece and to keep all modern development entirely outside the city walls. We sincerely trust that some means of carrying out a scheme of this kind may be devised, as we should deplore anything that would mean the ultimate destruction of such a perfect example of mediaeval town life. We do not know of a single example in the whole of the United

Kingdom that can be compared to Conway, with its city walls, gateways and magnificent Castle.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. Bosdin Leech, Chairman.
John Swarbrick, Hon. Reporting Architect.
L. M. Angus-Butterworth, Hon. Secretary.

Ministry of Transport,
Whitehall Gardens,
London, S.W.1.
19 February, 1936

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Transport to refer to your letter, received on the 10th February, and to state that various proposals for the improvement of the main traffic route through Conway have been under the consideration of the local authorities concerned, the Caernarvon County Council and the Conway Town Council, for some time, but no definite scheme has yet been submitted for the Minister's approval. It is the Minister's practice to arrange for the Royal Fine Art Commission to be consulted with regard to any scheme which involves questions of architectural treatment or monumental lay-out, or has relation to buildings of historic or antiquarian interest, and it is necessary for the approval of the Board of Ancient Monuments to be obtained where a scheme affects a "scheduled" ancient monument. Your Society may, therefore, rest assured that full consideration will be given to the matters in which they are interested.

There is considerable anxiety as to the condition of the suspension bridge and its complete reconstruction might still be unavoidable even if a by-pass road were constructed as suggested in your letter. The Ministry's Divisional Road Engineer for Wales, Mr. S. Evans, M.Inst.C.E., F.R.I.B.A., who is in touch with the local authorities, will, however, be happy to discuss this suggestion with a representative of the Society, and for this purpose will be prepared to arrange a meeting at Conway if you will be good enough to communicate with him. His address is: — Graham Buildings, Newport Road, Cardiff.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. P. Lyddon,
Deputy Chief Engineer.

L. M. Angus-Butterworth, Esq., F.S.A.Scot.,
Hon. Secretary,
Ancient Monuments Society.

The office of the
 Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, O.M., M.P.,
 Thames House, Millbank, London, S.W.1.
 14 February, 1936

Dear Sir,

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated February 12th.

Mr. Lloyd George is very grateful to you for sending him a copy of the letter that you have addressed to the Minister of Transport. He is naturally very keenly interested in anything which has to do with the welfare of Conway. He is making his own private enquiries, and he would be grateful if you would keep him notified as to future developments.

Yours faithfully,
 S. J. Sylvester.

L. M. Angus-Butterworth, Esq., F.S.A.Scot.

Mr. Lloyd George did in fact take a keen interest in the matter, and paid a special visit to Conway. Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., raised the question in the House of Commons.

Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Hore-Belisha, the then Hon. Secretary, Mr. Angus-Butterworth, got in touch with Major S. Evans, M.Inst.C.E., F.R.I.B.A., the Ministry's Divisional Engineer in Wales, to arrange a meeting between the parties concerned.

By kind invitation of Dr. G. H. B. Kendrick, K.C., LL.D., a Vice-President of the Ancient Monuments Society, a conference was held at Caer Rhun Hall, his seat in the Conway Valley, on 2 June, 1936. Our Society was represented by Dr. Kendrick, who presided; Dr. Willoughby Gardner, D.Sc., F.S.A., a Vice-President; Mr. John Swarbrick and Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth. Besides the Divisional Road Engineer there were present Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, F.S.A., of H.M. Office of Works; Mr. A. Hewitt, Chairman of the Caernarvon Highways Committee; Mr. T. Owen, the County Surveyor; and other local gentlemen who were interested either in a professional or public capacity. Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., telegraphed regretting his inability to be present.

The Conference came to the conclusion that the best possible course would be to carry the arterial road entirely outside the walls of Conway. This was duly reported to the Society's Council, and at the Annual General Meeting held at Haigh Hall, Wigan, on 5 June, 1937, the following statement was approved:

"This Society has heard with the greatest alarm of the suggestion to make an arterial road through the Borough and Town of Conway. It feels that this course would do irreparable damage to one of the most precious inheritances which Wales possesses and

that it is due to posterity that it should be avoided at any possible cost.

Crawford and Balcarres, President.
E. Bosdin Leech, Chairman."

The persistence shown by the Society in this important matter caused the circumstances to become much better known than would otherwise have been the case, and in July, 1939, a public inquiry was held at Conway regarding the route of the proposed Conway By-Pass.

Two routes were considered. The Caernarvonshire County Council proposed one through the town of Conway. The Borough Council, however, advocated a route along the quay outside the town walls and then by the coast. Support for the latter proposal was given by Dr. G. H. B. Kendrick, K.C., and Mr. John Swarbrick, F.R.I.B.A., on behalf of the Ancient Monuments Society, and by Sir Cyril Fox, M.Inst.C.E., on behalf of the Society of Antiquaries. Our view was accepted by the then Minister of Transport, who made the Conway By-Pass Order accordingly on 17 May, 1940.

WHITBY COTTAGES, YORKSHIRE

One of the ways in which the Ancient Monuments Society showed a pioneer spirit from early in its history was in its concern for the preservation of buildings modest in scale, instead of concentrating on stately homes as the National Trust then tended to do. It is not without significance that the first property the Society came to own in later years was six cottages at Cromford in Derbyshire, dating from the Industrial Revolution. It was appreciated, in fact, that quite modest dwellings could be worthy features of our architectural inheritance.

A Yorkshire example may serve to indicate the Society's early activity in this field. In 1936 our Council was strongly urged by different groups of people to use its influence to save the famous red-roofed cottages of Whitby, which were likely to disappear under the slum clearance programme of the local authority. The following letter was accordingly sent to the Minister of Health, who sent the sympathetic reply also printed below:

26 February, 1936

Rt. Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, P.C., M.P.,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Sir,

We hear with deep regret that over a hundred of the unique old red-roofed houses of Whitby are threatened with demolition. There can be little doubt that the antique pantile roofs and their

contours are one of the greatest attractions for the visitor to Whitby, and that if they were destroyed much of the charm and atmosphere of the place would be lost. We have evidence from a number of quarters that lovers of beauty, artists, antiquarians and architects are indignant at the proposal.

It is stated on excellent authority that the big, old, three-floor houses near the water are kept in excellent order by the Yorkshire fisherfolk. One can see there the cleanest of big rooms and fire-sides, while the children are particularly noticeable for their activity and vigour.

We venture to suggest that what is required is intelligent renovation, and that it would be a serious mistake to pull down these fine old houses which, with their eighteen inch walls, are far better built than the vast majority of those being hurriedly erected all over the country at the present time by the speculative builder.

We understand that a recent county court judgment has checked wholesale destruction for the moment. May we hope that before any irrevocable step is taken you will give full and careful consideration to the considerable body of public opinion that is opposed to the demolition scheme?

Yours truly,

E. Bosdin Leech, Chairman.

L. M. Angus-Butterworth, Hon. Secretary.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
3 March, 1936

Dear Sir,

Sir Kingsley Wood has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 26th February, and to assure you that he shares the desire of your Society to preserve the beauty of Whitby and works of historical or artistic interest to be found there. In this connection he wishes me to send you the attached copy of an official letter which he caused to be addressed to the Urban District Council on 1st February, and to draw attention particularly to the last three paragraphs.

He understands that at the Council's request an architect has been nominated by the Royal Institute of British Architects to advise the Council on the methods by which effect can best be given to the requirements imposed upon them by Section 38 of the Housing Act, 1930, and that this gentleman is now engaged in inspecting the district for the purpose.

Yours faithfully,

Adkin Rumber, Private Secretary.

Dr. E. Bosdin Leech, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.,
Ancient Monuments Society.

Extract from the Letter referred to by Sir Kingsley Wood

Although this aspect of the matter has not been raised in the correspondence between the Council and himself the Minister observes that there have been a number of references in the Press to the artistic interest of houses at Whitby, either individually or as part of a whole.

The Council will be aware of the provisions of Section 38 of the Housing Act, 1930, which requires them in taking any action under the Act to have regard to the beauty of the landscape or countryside, and the other amenities of the locality, and the desirability of preserving existing works of architectural, historic or artistic interest.

The Council will no doubt advise themselves as to the best methods of giving effect to this requirement, and the Minister will be glad to render any assistance in his power. Such action need be in no way inconsistent with the Council's duty to secure that no house should continue to be inhabited which is in fact uninhabitable.

In the event the beauties of the ancient red-tiled fishing quarter of Whitby were saved. As in many other cases the Society did what it could to voice public opinion, and to act as a watch-dog ever on the alert to sound the alarm when there was serious danger of the loss of any part of our national heritage of beautiful buildings.

How vital this function of the Society has remained is indicated by the following passage, written by Dr. Raymond B. Wood-Jones in 1967: "The smaller regional buildings, which provide the fundamental character of our smaller towns and villages, are disappearing at an alarming and increasing rate in the spate of central-area development which is being imposed on large and small communities, modern and historical alike, reducing all to a standard—or sub-standard—national stereotype".

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

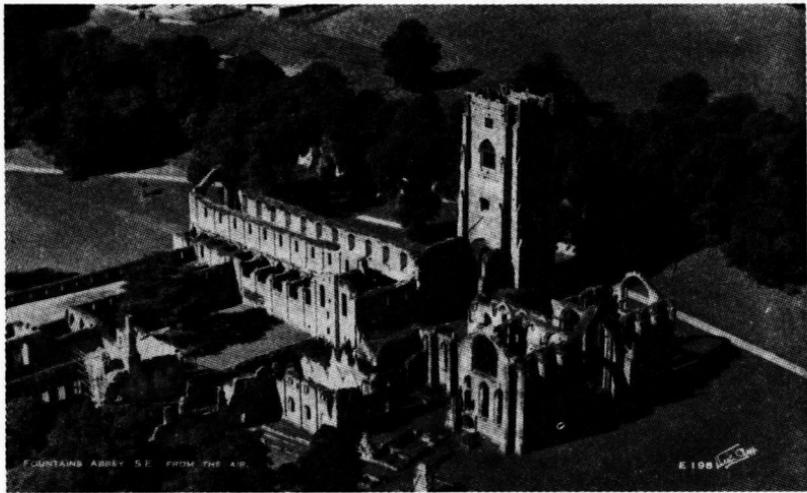
A most valuable service which the Society has provided since its early days is that of briefing architects, archaeologists and others serving on its Council or Technical Committees to give expert evidence at public inquiries. The gentlemen concerned have given freely of their professional time and knowledge, and as they have spoken with authority their evidence has often been decisive.

One of the most important cases with which the Society was concerned in this way was that of Durham Cathedral and a proposed power station in 1944. At the time Mr. John Swarbrick expressed the view that for some years there had been no more serious threat to our ancient cities than that arising from the large



By courtesy of Thos. W. Sharp, Esq.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL FROM THE OBSERVATORY FIELDS, c.1895



Copyright—Walter Scott, Bradford

FOUNTAINS ABBEY FROM THE AIR

scale generation of electric power. Why such structures could not be kept as far as possible from cathedral and university towns it was difficult to understand in days when the public were hoping to derive some benefit from the expenditure of considerable sums on Town Planning.

It appeared that the policy of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning was being nullified by authorization being given for the erection near to our finest cathedrals of power houses of prodigious dimensions, with towering chimneys and cooling towers big enough to rival the pyramids, but unsurpassingly ugly despite their hyperbolic contours. The disfigurement of the prospect was not the only effect of these gigantic structures: they polluted the atmosphere on a scale that had been unprecedented in the past, and erosive acids could consequently percolate into the pores of the stonework and disintegrate it. From this insidious peril there was no compensation.

The Council of the Ancient Monuments Society became specially anxious in 1944 when it learnt that, after planning permission had been given for one of the best views of Lincoln Cathedral to be disfigured, a similar threat to the Cathedral and city of Durham had arisen. Mr. Swarbrick offered to attend the public inquiry at Durham on behalf of the Society, and at the request of Messrs. Molineux, McKeag and Cooper, legal advisers to the Dean and Chapter, he prepared and dispatched a Proof of Evidence.

On Saturday, 2 December, 1944, Mr. Swarbrick was notified by telegram that he was expected to attend on Tuesday 5 December to give evidence on the lines of his Proof. To comply he cancelled professional engagements and travelled specially from his home in Surrey to Durham in mid-winter and under war conditions. He charged no professional fees, but the Society covered his disbursements for travelling and hotel expenses.

The eloquent plea made by Mr. Swarbrick at the inquiry attracted considerable attention, and at the close of the proceedings the Dean of Durham, the Very. Rev. Dr. Cyril Argentine Alington, D.D., came across and thanked him warmly. The satisfactory outcome of the inquiry was that the site of the proposed power station was moved some distance from the proximity of the cathedral. There can be little doubt that this would not have happened if our society had not intervened.

COMING-OF-AGE CELEBRATIONS

Members from a wide area gathered in Liverpool on Saturday, 23 June, 1945, for functions in connection with the twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Society.

In the morning a reception was held at the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Sefton, D.L., J.P., and the

Lady Mayoress, the Countess of Sefton. The Lord Mayor said that the Society was doing very useful and important work in studying the ancient monuments of the country and in keeping the need for their preservation before the public. The Chairman of the Society, Mr. Angus-Butterworth, in thanking the Lord Mayor, conveyed to him an invitation from the Council to become a Vice-President, an honour which Lord Sefton said he would naturally be proud to accept.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served in the State Apartments, and Lord and Lady Sefton then conducted their guests on a tour of the Town Hall, the oldest public building in Liverpool, designed by John Wood of Bath in 1754 and now used solely for hospitality purposes. Members were very fortunate in having the fine features and points of historical interest described by Lord Sefton, several of whose ancestors had served the office of mayor in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

After lunch the members and their friends visited the Liverpool Cathedral, where they were received by the Rev. Canon Charles F. Soulby. Later in the afternoon the Chairman, Mr. Angus-Butterworth, presided at the twenty-first Annual General Meeting, held in the Senate Room of the University. Professor J. P. Droop, M.A., F.S.A., a Vice-President of the Society and Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Liverpool, expressed admirably the current views of the Council in these words:

"To have reached the age of discretion perhaps justifies a pause for stock-taking, for reviewing our past achievements and considering whether the time has not come when our activities might with advantage be extended. Much good work we can claim to have done. The present time, however, calls on us to redouble our efforts. The tribulations of the last five years (1939-45) have given us opportunities and laid on us duties which, if we are not to shun them, call for a wider sphere of influence than we have yet achieved. While damage by enemy action to scheduled monuments may safely be left to Government action, there may be many buildings that will escape the Government net, either by being of too recent a date, or because they have an interest that is local rather than national. Such monuments in need of wise restoration may call aloud for the knowledgeable advice that a Society such as ours is in a position to give, and for the saving interest that it is our duty and privilege to spread."

The celebrations were continued when the Anniversary Meeting was held in the Manchester Town Hall on Saturday, 22 September 1945. The Lord Mayor, Alderman W. Philip Jackson, C.B.E., J.P., presided, being supported on the platform by the President, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Stamford, D.L., J.P.; the Chairman, Mr. Angus-Butterworth; Sir Henry Fildes, M.P., J.P.; and Lt. Colonel Vere Egerton-Cotton, C.B.E., M.A., T.D., J.P. More than a hundred and fifty members and friends were present.

The Lord Mayor gave an official welcome to the gathering, and

said that it was appropriate that the celebrations should be held in the city in which the Society had been founded twenty-one years before. He had been interested to learn that one of the first acts of the Society had been to take steps to preserve the remaining part of the old Roman Wall at Manchester. After the Lord Mayor had spoken Colonel Egerton-Cotton delivered the Anniversary Address. Later those present were able to inspect the famous mural paintings by Ford Madox Brown in the great Organ Chamber of the Town Hall, and to enjoy refreshments in the State Reception Suite. The function was regarded by the whole company as one of the most successful and enjoyable in the annals of the Society.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY, YORKSHIRE

The Society has always enjoyed excellent relations with the Press. When historic buildings have been threatened the publicity which editors have given has often been most valuable because developers prefer to operate in obscurity until they can present a *fait accompli*. Even when intentions are good but misguided it can be salutary for the full facts to be made known through the media, as in the case of Fountains Abbey.

In August, 1946, a proposal to rebuild Fountains Abbey became known, and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, the leading local body in whose area the Abbey lay, sought our aid in opposing it. The then Chairman of the Ancient Monuments Society accordingly wrote to the *Guardian* on 1 September as follows:

"Sir,—The report of the sale and proposed reconstruction of Fountains Abbey is profoundly disturbing. It is a shock to realize that this precious part of our national heritage is not in public ownership, but can be sold to the first comer by a private individual.

"It seems inconceivable that the fabric could be converted for present-day use without destroying much of what is most valuable from an historic and architectural point of view. It would be vandalism to interfere with Fountains.

"A somewhat comparable case is that of Holyrood Abbey. Lord Leven, who died in 1906, left a bequest for the restoration of the nave as a home for the order of the Thistle. The late Professor Lethaby was consulted, and considered the building unsuitable for restoration on the ground that its frailty would require a reconstruction so complete as to destroy its value as an authentic document. The First Commissioner of Works shared this view. The money reverted to Lord Leven's family, who generously found another way to carry out his wish by building the Thistle Chapel attached to St. Giles. So the Abbey ruins still stand undisturbed in their ancient beauty, and a fine new building has come into existence.

"It is earnestly to be hoped that the authorities will exercise due

restraint upon the resurrectionists who have designs upon Fountains.

Yours, etc.

L. M. Angus-Butterworth

Ashton New Hall,
Ashton-on-Mersey, Cheshire."

A vigorous discussion took place in the Press, and the following passage is from a leading article in *The Times* of 10 September, 1946:

"The present discussion involves all the arguments for and against the restoration of ancient ruined buildings of the first class. Fountains undoubtedly stands at the top of this class. Though it may be approached by two or three similar buildings in this country, it surpasses them all in the extent and variety of its remains.

"It is a matter of keen discussion how far such buildings are proper subjects for restoration, and criticism is bound to arise when the future of one of the major architectural antiquities of the country, at present freely open to public view, is brought into question."

The debate continued for a time, but finally right thinking prevailed. One of the later letters on the subject was from Sir Muirhead Bone, LL.D., D.Litt., R.W.S., A.R.I.B.A., who on other occasions supported the views of the Society. On 14 September, 1946, he wrote to *The Times*:

"Sir,—I am one of the many artists who have found a beautiful subject in Fountains Abbey and am concerned about the proposal to rebuild it. I am convinced that it is a mistake.

"Fountains as it is now, ruins and surroundings, is one of the chief beauties we have in England; the rebuilt Abbey, however great the effort, can never be that. The present exquisitely balanced scene will have vanished and a building with an unavoidably strong element of commonplace substituted.

"The builders of Fountains built it in the natural style of their time. It would seem more likely to result in an architectural success if the new builders of today were given a free hand for a separate building unhampered by the anxious considerations which must weigh heavily on the restorers of so frail and venerable a fabric.

I am, etc.,

Muirhead Bone."

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE

The Ancient Monuments Society enjoyed a strong revival in the years following the close of the second World War, with John Swarbrick still active, and with the powerful aid of Francis A. Bailey, M.A., the leading spirit of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. A problem which faced the Council increasingly in this period was that of obtaining sufficiently early warning when historic buildings were threatened. All too often demolition was happening before any word was received, and when it was too late to take any action. Two possible solutions received attention.

The first was the appointment of County Secretaries in an honorary capacity. It was expected that they would serve the Society by informing the Council when any matter in their area required attention. In addition it was hoped that they would recruit their friends and that eventually local committees and even branches might be formed. Of those appointed many did excellent work for a time, but the idea was not developed.

An alternative or complementary scheme was that of working through local amenity societies. It was felt that if such bodies were encouraged to subscribe to the Ancient Monuments Society, a working partnership might be established and that perhaps some kind of Federation might come into being under our aegis. To test the ground a conference on a major scale was arranged.

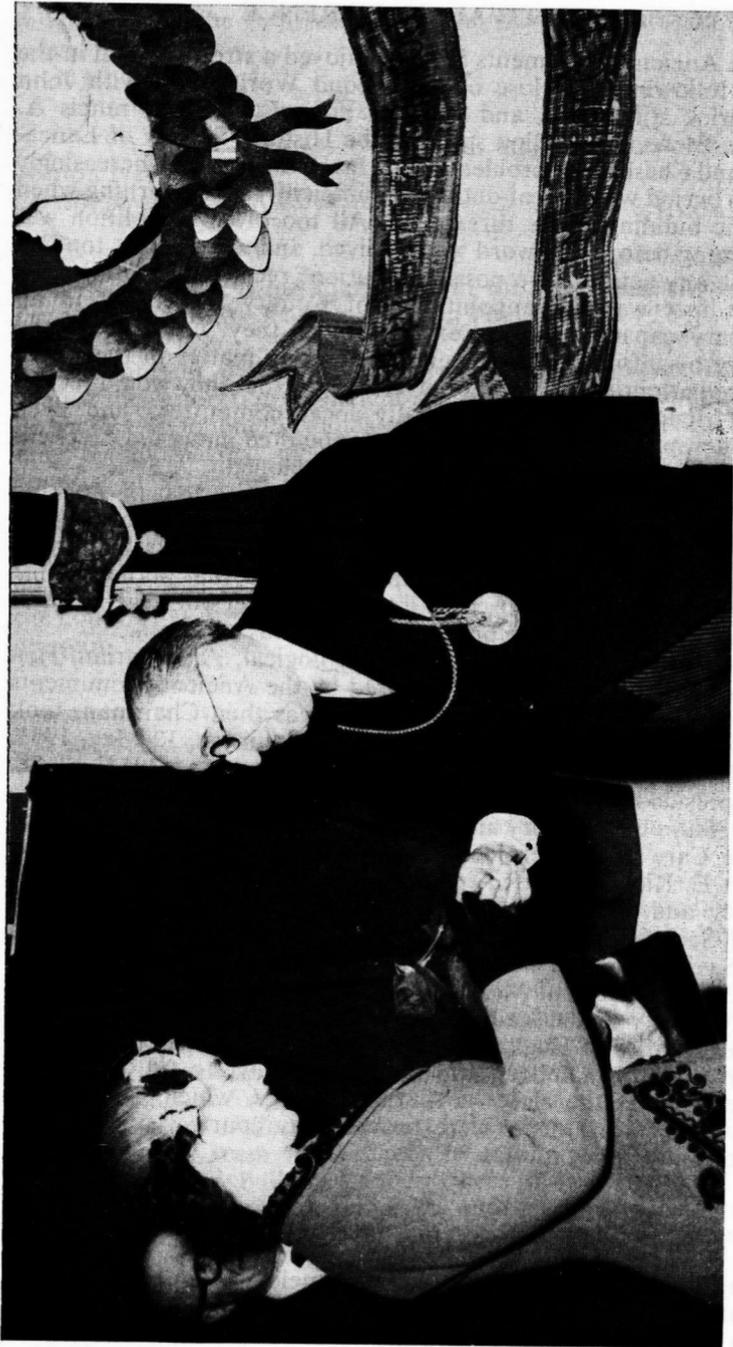
The Festival Conference of Archaeological, Antiquarian, Historical and Allied Societies organized by the Ancient Monuments Society, of which Mr. John Swarbrick was then Chairman, took place at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, 12 May, 1951. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Colonel S. P. Dawson, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., presided.

A lecture on "History and Architecture, with Special Reference to the Care of Masterpieces" was given by Professor (later Sir) Albert E. Richardson, R.A., M.A., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., of London. Shorter addresses were given on "The Value of the Work of Local Societies", by Francis A. Bailey, M.A., of Liverpool, and on "Saving Ancient Monuments" by L. M. Angus-Butterworth, M.A., F.S.A.Scot., of Manchester.

Over thirty of the leading Archaeological Societies in the Northern Counties of England and Wales sent official delegates, with many ordinary members, and the gathering was a fully representative one. At the close of the proceedings, which proved very enjoyable, refreshments were provided by courtesy of the Lord Mayor and Corporation.

LONDON HEADQUARTERS

The circumstances under which the Ancient Monuments Society established headquarters in London were the indirect result of a fresh enterprise on the part of Mr. John Swarbrick. He was the



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SIR ALBERT RICHARDSON, P.R.A., presenting a rose to HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN on a visit to the Royal Academy.

head of the architectural practice of Joseph Swarbrick and Son of Manchester. Shortly before the beginning of the second World War his growing reputation caused him to be elected to the Council of the R.I.B.A., and led him to open an office at King's Bench Walk, Temple, London, E.C.4. to deal with the increasing number of Government commissions he was receiving. He purchased a house at Hinchley Wood in Surrey, and henceforward his main interests were in the south.

Shortly after hostilities ceased he established the National Ancient Monuments Society, with an office in Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1. Professor (afterwards Sir) Albert E. Richardson became President with Mr. Swarbrick as Chairman of Council; Mr. R. L. Chidlaw, of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, as Hon. Treasurer; and Miss Mary E. Punt as Secretary. Hon. Commissioners were appointed for different regions: Dr. C. Roland Woods, M.B.E., Ph.D., LL.D., for the Southern Counties; Mr. L. M. Angus-Butterworth for the Northern Counties and Wales; and Colonel William Walker, R.E., for Scotland.

Council meetings were held in the Oak Room at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall; a "National Ancient Monuments Review" was published, reaching a good circulation in America, and other useful work was done. The most friendly co-operation was maintained with the senior Ancient Monuments Society, still centred in Manchester and itself busy with post-war developments.

Some degree of overlapping was inevitable, and with the goodwill that existed it was natural for a joining of forces to be considered. Discussions took place in a very cordial atmosphere, to see if a single organization could be formed which would be nationwide in scope.

In March, 1953, the officers of both Societies held a joint meeting in the rooms of Sir Albert Richardson at Old Burlington Street, London, W., and it was whole-heartedly agreed that there should be an amalgamation. Sir Albert, upon relinquishing the Presidency of his own Society, became the first Director of the Ancient Monuments Society. The merger was of prime importance in that it gave our Society true national status, with its headquarters in London, but keeping a northern branch office in Manchester.

CONCLUSION

It would have been pleasant to continue this record of the work of the Ancient Monuments Society, but for the time being the limits of space have been reached. The establishment of London headquarters in 1953 marked the opening of a new era, for at almost the same time the Society had the great good fortune to persuade Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, M.A., F.S.A., to become Secretary. Besides undertaking a forbiddingly heavy load of case-

work, which rapidly increased, his unrivalled knowledge of historic churches as well as of continental antiquities, and his gifted pen, were all of the greatest advantage to the Society.

No doubt in due course the dramatic story will be written of how the Society evolved to become a major national institution. In the meantime it is most encouraging to observe that at the present day the Society is more active than ever before, and is still growing steadily in prestige and influence. Reference to one recent event may, however, be allowed to round off this account of the Society's early days. On 25 September, 1974, the Council of the Society met at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, in the same room in which the inaugural meeting had taken place just over fifty years before. Afterwards the Lord Mayor of the City of Manchester, Alderman F. J. Balcombe, J.P., entertained the party at the Town Hall, where among the treasures exhibited in the Civic Plate Room was the ceremonial key for the grill protecting the remains of the Roman Wall. The key, with the Arms of the City in enamel, is engraved with an acknowledgement to the Ancient Monuments Society.