

THE
CAMBRIDGE & COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM
ASSOCIATION

FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE
Year ended 31st December, 1939



THE CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM
2 CASTLE STREET, CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge and County Folk Museum Association

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R. C. Lambeth

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* Members of the Executive Committee

CAMBRIDGE & COUNTY FOLK MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1939

THE Third Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in the Lecture Rooms of the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge, by kind permission of Prof. Ellis Minns, on 24th February, 1939. Mrs. Keynes, President Elect, presided. The Third Annual Report of the Association was introduced by the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer and after its adoption the Officers and Members of the Committees were elected.

After the meeting, a lecture, which was preceded by tea, was given by Mr. D. W. Herdman, Curator of the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, his subject being "Cotswold Bygones." Mr. Herdman brought with him an interesting collection of exhibits from his Museum to illustrate his lecture.

MUSEUM

The Committee wish to thank friends who during the past year have added to the interest of the Museum by contributing 240 gifts and loans, which brings the total number of exhibits in the Museum up to 2041. This is the second year in succession in which no objects have been purchased out of Museum funds. The need for economy in printing this Report has prevented us from recording more than a selection of the very interesting gifts received during the year.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has shown her continued interest by presenting an inlaid mahogany tea-caddy and a miniature round table.

The Master and Fellows of St. John's College have presented a Georgian double bow-fronted shop window from No. 45, Bridge Street, recently demolished. This shop front has been re-erected in the Museum yard and fitted up for the display of general stores and toys. The same donors have also given some ornamental plaster work from the ceiling of another house in Bridge Street.

An interesting gift comes from the Sedgwick Museum, namely, the original stone set up in memory of Elizabeth Woodcock, who died 24th July, 1799. When the present monument was erected in 1849 the original stone was used as a doorstep until removed to the Sedgwick Museum.

Three uniforms of local interest have been received :— a uniform of the Cambridge Volunteers from Major Gordon Fowler, a Cambridgeshire Regiment uniform from Lieut.-Col. Archer, and a 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment uniform from Alderman Peck.

Among gifts of domestic interest there are : a three-wheeled perambulator from Mr. H. J. Gautrey of Cottenham, a cheese press from Mrs. Bond of Hardwick, a mahogany corner-cupboard from Mrs. Keynes, J.P., and some brewhouse utensils from Mr. Lambeth ; from the late Dr. Palmer came a set of three brass-bound wooden measures ; and from Miss J. Milne Mitchell a set of six pewter measures. Mr. Alex. Macintosh has given a leaden pump-spout dated 1791.

The Master and Fellows of Trinity Hall have given some engravings by Buck and an engraving of Thomas Kerrich. A portrait in oils of Thomas Hobson presented by Mr. J. M. Keynes, C.B., has created great interest on account of its historic value. A number of broadsheets have been received from Mr. and Mrs. Gillingham. Mr. H. Gautrey of Cottenham has given a long seed-barrow, and a breast-plough, and other agricultural implements were given by Mr. P. B. Standley. Alderman M. D. Bradford has presented the crests used on the hammercloth of the Sheriff's coach, and livery buttons used by the servants of four High Sheriffs of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Mrs. Hele and the Misses Buckenham are constantly giving useful material for Museum purposes.

It is encouraging to report that the Museum is of increasing educational benefit in many directions. Loans were made to the Old English Farm staged in Windsor Great Park for the Centenary of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show. These were in charge of Mr. Lambeth, who was able to give much assistance in arranging the farmhouse. The brougham was lent to the C.U.O.T.C., bottlejacks to the Festival Theatre, and various objects to the A.D.C. The Perse School borrowed specimens of early bicycles. Coleridge Road School has had an exhibition of agricultural implements and of lighting and laundry utensils.

Special thanks are due to the friends who have displayed our exhibits in the town in order to make the Museum more widely known. Messrs. Thrussell have shown shoes, the Cambridge Gas Co. cooking utensils, Messrs. Matthew and Son, butter-making utensils, Messrs. George Stace, costumes and Messrs. Joshua Taylor a smock.

In the last report attention was drawn to the need for covers to protect the carriages. This need has been supplied by the gift of a large weather-proof curtain from the President. A small fireproof safe is now much needed.

Certain precautions have been taken for the preservation of some of the most valuable exhibits for the duration of the war.

FINANCE

Membership subscriptions have continued to be the chief source of income, the number of subscribers being as follows :—

	<i>New</i>	<i>Total</i>
Life Members . .	1	34
Ordinary Members	5	76
Associate Members	10	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16	172
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total membership was thus 172 against 176 in 1937 and 169 in 1938. Excluding life-members, the total number of members subscribing annually was 138 against 133 in the previous year. In addition, financial assistance was given by five donors, including very welcome donations of £10 from the Hon. Lady Darwin and Miss Ruth Darwin.

Further applications made during the year to various Trusts, mainly on grounds of the educational value of the Museum, were not attended by success, except in the case of the Thomas Wall Trust, from which a very acceptable grant was received of £20 per annum for three years, subject to annual revision. Both Cambridge Borough and County Education Committees have renewed their respective annual grants of £10 in consideration of the free admission of parties of school children, and under this arrangement 391 local school children have been admitted in 19 school parties, when demonstrations and addresses were given by the Assistant Curator. In addition to pupils from the Perse Schools, evacuated children to the number of 197 have been admitted in ten parties, to whom instruction was given as well as to the local children, and contributions have thus been made to the income.

Receipts at the door from admission fees, donations by visitors, and the sale of postcards amounted approximately to £27 against £32 in the previous year. The change from Saturday to Thursday as the day for free admission has at any rate not been prejudicial to income, as the attendances constituted 32% of the total against 39% in 1938. The actual attendances on free days numbered 1264 against 1377 in 1937 and 1204 in 1938. No special event occurred during the year comparable with the Royal visit in 1938 to stimulate public interest and thus increase the income. Taking war conditions into consideration the reduction from 4187 attendances in 1938 to 3975 in 1939 is not at all surprising and necessarily carries with it some little decrease in the income from this source.

The financial position of the Museum is a matter of anxiety to the Committee. The expenses of the past year have been covered only by special donations and a reduction in the small reserve fund in the Bank, which consists of the balance of the subscriptions of Life Members. The expenditure has been kept down to the lowest point compatible with efficiency, but inevitable heavy cost has to be met without delay in making good extensive damage to the heating system caused by the severe frost. The Executive Committee, therefore, are anxious to add to the list of subscribers and donors and will welcome the help of their annual subscribers to achieve this end at what is admittedly a time of difficulty.

As a record of his appraisalment of the value of the contents of the Museum, completed during the year, Mr. Stanley Woolston has, with the assistance of the officers, most kindly prepared a detailed list of the estimated value of the objects in the Museum, copies of which have been deposited with the Bank and the Insurance Company. Arising out of this valuation Mr. Woolston raised the question of extending the insurance policies held so as to cover possible injury to the Museum contents, and this has now been arranged with the Insurance Company.

OFFICERS

At the last Annual General Meeting Mrs. Keynes, Chairman of the Executive Committee, was unanimously elected President in succession to Alderman E. Saville Peck. Councillor A. W. Dilley was elected to the Executive Committee, succeeding Mrs. Keynes as representative of the Borough Council.

A serious loss has been sustained by the Association through the death of our distinguished Vice-President, Dr. William Mortlock Palmer. His interest in the Museum was shown at the time of its formation and has been unflinching throughout. When the tenancy of the building was first acquired from the Borough Council, Dr. Palmer asked Alderman Peck and the Assistant Curator to visit his house at Linton, and made them free of his stable-loft, where he had accumulated objects of local interest, collected over a long period. These, with other gifts from Dr. Palmer, formed a considerable portion of the nucleus of the collection in the Museum.

April 19th, 1940.

Subscriptions and Donations

LIFE MEMBERS (Subscribers of 10 guineas and upwards).

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Capt. R. Briscoe, M.P.	Magdalene College
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Emmanuel College	Mme. Raverat
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E. B. Haddon	Sidney Sussex College
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Miss B. E. Borrer	Sir Graham Green, K.C.B.
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Miss Ruth Darwin
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Cambridgeshire County Education Committee
The Thomas Wall Trust

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