

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE  
SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHÆOLOGY AND NATURAL  
HISTORY

BY LESLIE DOW.

In 1948 the Institute completed the first hundred years of its life, being one of the earliest of the County Archæological Societies in the country. It may be interesting, therefore, to print in the *Proceedings* a few notes on its history and evolution, so far as this can be ascertained from the material available.<sup>1</sup>

Although the Institute, as we know it, was established in 1848, it appears that before that date there was in existence the SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, which had its headquarters in Ipswich. The Rev. H. A. Harris possesses a copy of the "Regulations" of the Association which read as follows :—

SUFFOLK  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.  
REGULATIONS.

1. That the Society shall be called "THE SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION."
  2. That the object of the Society shall be to collect the best information on the Arts and Monuments of the County, including Antiquities ; Numismatics ; Architecture, Civil and Ecclesiastical ; Sculpture ; Paintings on Walls, Wood, or Glass ; Civil History ; Genealogy ; Ecclesiastical History ; Records, etc. and all other matters usually comprised under the head of Archæology.
  3. That all information thus received, shall be entered in books kept for the purpose by the Secretary.
  4. That the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Committee.
  5. That such papers shall be read at the meetings as the Committee may approve of, and that the meetings shall conclude with the exhibition of, and discussion on, such subjects of interest or curiosity as Members may produce.
  6. That all such Antiquities as shall be presented to the Society shall be deposited in a place to be provided for that purpose.
  7. That the President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected for life, and shall also, with the Treasurer and Secretary, be ex-officio members of the Committee.
  8. That every Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of Five Shillings.
  9. That the Association shall have the power of publishing such papers and engravings as may be deemed worthy of being printed.
  10. That each subscriber shall be entitled to a copy of such publications either gratis or at such price as the funds of the Society will admit.
  11. That a short Annual Report of the proceedings of the Society shall be printed and delivered to all the Members.
  12. That the Society in its pursuits shall be confined to the County of Suffolk.
- All communications relating to the Society may be addressed to Mr. Pawsey, Secretary (pro tem), Public Library, Ipswich.

The Association published three parts of *Original Papers*<sup>2</sup>: part I in October 1846 ; part II in June 1847 ; and part III in November 1848.

<sup>1</sup> The following are the main sources which have been used in compiling this paper :—(a) accounts of meetings in the various volumes of the *Proceedings*, (b) Minute Books, (1861-1879 and 1878-1910), (c) Sundry papers in the possession of the Rev. H. A. Harris, to whom my thanks are due.

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted to Mr. Harris for the loan of his complete set of these 3 parts, as well as his copy of the Regulations. There is a set of the parts in the Ipswich Library and another in the SIA Library at Bury.

A Table of Contents of these *Original Papers* is printed after the various indexes which follow this article. These publications contain no accounts of any meetings of the Association, nor is there extant any minute book. They were printed by Frederick Pawsey, Old Butter Market, Ipswich and it will be noted that Mr. Pawsey of the Public Library acted as temporary Secretary.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, it appears that in Bury steps were being taken to form a similar Society and we read that the first Quarterly Meeting of the BURY AND WEST SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE was held in Bury, on 8th June, 1848 ;

"The Rev. Henry Hasted<sup>2</sup> having been called to the chair congratulated the members on the formation of such a society, which had long been wanted. Bury was a place rich in antiquities and in objects attractive to those devoted to archæological pursuits, and the establishment of this Society reflected honour on the town."

Unfortunately, the minute book for this period has not been traced, but the title-page of the *Proceedings* has always included the words "Established March, 1848". It is, therefore, assumed that the inaugural meeting was held in that month, the first quarterly meeting taking place in June.

The question here arises whether the *Suffolk* Archæological Association actually gave birth to the *Bury and West Suffolk* Archæological Institute, and was merged in it. On the rather scant evidence available, it seems improbable that the Association, based on Ipswich and covering the whole county, should merge itself in the Institute, with headquarters in Bury and with its operations strictly limited to West Suffolk. We have also seen that there was an overlap, the Bury Institute being formed early in 1848, while the Association published the third, and presumably last, part of its *Original Papers* in November of that year.

At this distance of time it is impossible to be sure, but it seems probable that the Suffolk Archæological Association died an independent death, perhaps through lack of support, and that the Bury and West Suffolk Archæological Institute had an equally independent birth. It may be, however, that the former inspired, by example, the inception of the latter.

A slightly fuller account of the first meeting of the Institute, printed on a separate sheet of paper, is reproduced here : possibly it was circulated to members, while an abridged version was printed in the *Proceedings*.

#### BURY AND WEST SUFFOLK ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

The first Quarterly General Meeting of this Society was held in the Room of the West Suffolk Library at the Guildhall, on Thursday evening last, and was well attended. Amongst the members present we observed the Rev. H. Hasted, the Rev. J. W. Donaldson, the Rev. R. Rashdall, Rev. C. H. Bennett, Rev. H. Creed, Dr. Hake, W. B. Donne, Esq., &c., &c., and as a visitor the Rev. J. Hailstone, of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

<sup>1</sup> According to White's *Suffolk*, 1844, the Public Library was at that time situated in the Buttermarket, in the care of Mr. Pawsey, who was also a printer and bookseller.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Henry Hasted, born at Bury, 1771. Rector, at various times, of Ickworth, Braiseworth, Horringer and also Preacher at St. Mary's, Bury, 1802-1842. He died at Bury, in his 82nd year, 26th Nov., 1852. (*SIA Proc.* Vol. ii, p. 398).

After inspecting many objects of interest which had been brought for inspection, the Rev. H. Hasted was called to the chair, and congratulated the members on the formation of such a society, which had long been wanted. Bury was a place rich in antiquities and in objects attractive to those devoted to archæological pursuits, and the establishment of this Society reflected honour on the town. In expressing his satisfaction on this point, he could not avoid remarking how much the members were indebted to Mr. Tymms, the Honorary Secretary, to whose exertions the formation of the Society and the arrangements for that evening's meeting might be mainly attributed. At his own advanced age he could not expect to be able to assist to any great extent in promoting the objects of the Society, but still he was sincerely anxious for its prosperity, towards which he should be gratified in contributing everything in his power.

In compliance with the request of the Chairman, Mr. Tymms proceeded to describe the various articles exhibited, and to read the communications he had received in reference thereto.

The Rev. C. H. Bennet, of Ousden, presented to the Institute a variety of Roman Coins found at different times between Pakenham and Rougham ; two Roman Coins and some pieces of Pottery found on the borders of Dalham and Ousden ; a signet ring found in the Abbey Grounds ; another ring found at Lidgate ; a brass medallion of St. Ignatius Loyola, and another of St. Michael and the Dragon. Mr. Porteus Oakes presented a bronze celt found in the county ; Mr. Charles Manning, of Diss, a large collection of beautiful seals, taken in gutta percha ; and the Rev. H. Creed, a Roman glass unguentarium with the unguent therein, found at Stonham Aspal.

Sir H. E. Bunbury, Bart., exhibited a small Roman vase containing a mass of coins, supposed for the payment of troops, found near Holywell row, Mildenhall ; another specimen of a similar vase ; two celts of bronze, of different forms, found near Mildenhall ; a Roman vase and a dish of Samian ware found near Ingham ; and a spear-head, camp candlestick, and stone shot, found near the Eriswell Lode, Mildenhall.

The Rev. Sir T. G. Cullum sent a bronze sword, which was found about 70 years ago in the bed of the Lark, near Icklingham. It was accompanied by a miniature copy of the mosaic discovered at Pompeii, of the Battle of Issus, in which swords of a similar form are represented. It was observed that this kind of sword was considered by the late Sir S. Meyrick to be of Celtic workmanship.

Mr. Porteus Oakes exhibited a beautiful silver-gilt chalice of the 15th century, with enamelled medallions from Florence.

The Rev. H. Hasted exhibited a British vase with fragments of burnt bones, human and animal, found at Eye ; and a smaller one found at Melford.

Mr. Donne exhibited an early pedigree of the family of Barnwell, with the arms of the alliances emblazoned.

The Rev. H. Creed exhibited a gold signet-ring with the initial I., found some years since in the Abbey Grounds ; another of silver ; and two sepulchral brasses which had been offered for sale as old brass.

The Rev. C. H. Bennet exhibited a Roman vase made up from fragments of pottery found in one of the tumuli at Rougham, opened within a few years by the Rev. Professor Henslow.

Mr. Warren, of Ixworth, sent a drawing of the monument of Richard Coddington, with a rubbing of the brass thereon, in Ixworth Church ; a rubbing of a stone on the tower of the same Church, bearing the name of Abbot Schot ; and a variety of articles in bronze found at Ixworth and Pakenham, including a fibula and a ring of Roman workmanship ; two iron spurs, and one of bronze of very beautiful workmanship.

Mr. Page, of Ampton, exhibited two original deeds relating to the Coket and Croftes families.

A letter was read from Clare, pointing out the antiquities worthy of inspection in that town and neighbourhood, in the event of the Institute visiting it, as the writer had been informed was contemplated. The thanks of the Institute were voted to the writer, and the letter was referred to the Committee.

The Rev. J. W. Donaldson mentioned that Professor Willis (perhaps the highest living authority in such matters) had kindly promised to furnish the Institute with a plan of the Abbatial Church, with suggestions for the examination of the site in certain spots, to ascertain the existence of the various lateral chapels. Mr. Donaldson likewise suggested that an examination of the Jew's House (used as the Bridewell and Station-house), one of

the very few Norman edifices of the kind now remaining, might also prove very interesting.

Mr. Tymms then read a paper of Notes on the Medical History of Bury, from the time of Abbot Baldwin, who had been physician to St. Edward the Confessor, to the present century, accompanied by notices of some of the professors.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Tymms, for the very interesting paper just read.

It being suggested that the holding of the Quarterly Meeting in the evening might prevent the attendance of country members, it was determined to hold the two occurring during the winter months at two o'clock.\*

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was passed by acclamation, and the meeting broke up. All present expressed themselves highly gratified at the prospect which the proceedings of the first meeting held out for the success of the society.

\* *Members are requested to make a Memorandum of this change on the Card of Meetings.*

SAMUEL TYMMS,

*Honorary Secretary.*

In this account, mention is made of Samuel Tymms, the first Honorary Secretary and of the part he played in the formation of the Institute.

Samuel Tymms<sup>1</sup> son of Thomas and Eliza Tymms (*née* Stuart) was born at Camberwell, Surrey, 27th November, 1808. Later he was on the staff of the *Bury Post*, though it is not known what brought him into Suffolk. By 1857 he was established as a bookseller and Stationer in Lowestoft, where he died "highly valued and deeply regretted by a large circle of friends" on 29th April, 1871. He married, 10th July, 1844, Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. John Jugg of Ely and left five children—(1) Edmund Robert, (2) Mary Ann, (3) Edith Anna, (4) Mildred Ann, (5) Samuel. Mr. Tymms was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries about 1840. A photograph of this ardent and learned antiquary, to whom Suffolk archæology owes so much, accompanies these notes.

Besides contributing profusely to the early volumes of the *Proceedings*, Mr. Tymms was the author of many works, including:—*The Family Topographer*, (1832-1843) 7 vols.; *Bury Wills and Inventories*, (1850), *Guide to Bury St. Edmunds*, etc. etc.

The second meeting of the Institute was held on 14th September, 1848, at Clare, with Col. Baker in the chair. This was followed by a winter meeting at Bury on 14th December, 1848, when,

"The Right Hon. and Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey, Vice-President, presided." At this meeting, "It was resolved that an application be made to the Marquess of Bristol,<sup>2</sup> President, to give his permission that discreet researches may be made to ascertain the plan and extent of the ancient Abbey of St. Edmund: Such researches to be prosecuted under the direction of a Committee approved by his Lordship."

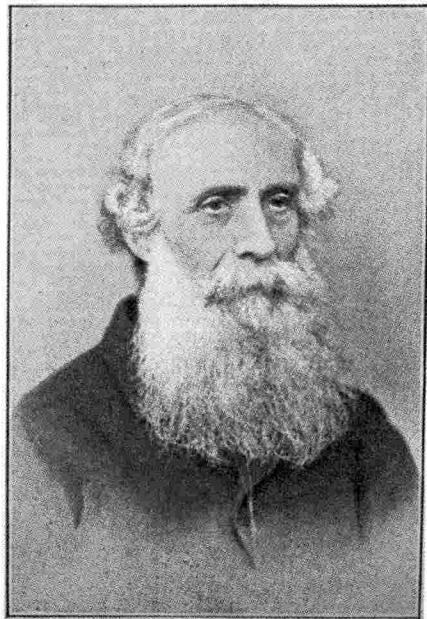
On 15th March, 1849 the first annual meeting was held at Bury and it will perhaps be of interest to reprint here the Report of the Committee and Treasurer's account:

"The Committee in presenting their first report have the gratification of being able to state that the Institute is progressing even beyond their hopes at the time of its establishment. There are now 157 members; a large number when the time that the Institute has been established is considered; but the Committee trust that when its objects and proceedings become more generally known, the number of members will be even more largely increased.

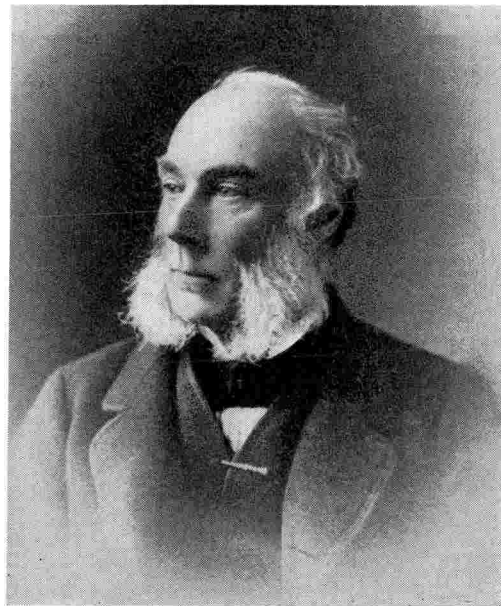
<sup>1</sup> Biographical information taken from the obituary notice printed in the *East Anglian, Notes and Queries*, Vol., vii (N.S.) p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> Frederick William, 1st Marquis (1769-1859).

PLATE II.



SAMUEL TYMMS  
(*Honorary Secretary*, 1848-1867).



EDWARD MAY DEWING  
(*Honorary Secretary* 1867-1878 and 1885-1889)

# BURY ST. EDMUND'S ATHENÆUM,

And Suffolk Institute of

ARCHÆOLOGY & NATURAL HISTORY.

## THE OPENING MEETING

OF THE LECTURE SESSION OF THIS INSTITUTION,

WILL BE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL,

On TUESDAY Evening, October 4, 1853,

THE RIGHT

HON. & REV. LORD A. HERVEY, M.A.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ATHENÆUM, IN THE CHAIR.

*The following Gentlemen have kindly promised their assistance—*

The Right Hon. the Earl JERNYIN, M.P.  
The Hon. and Rev. E. PELLEW, M.A.  
Sir JOHN WALSHAM, Bart.  
C. J. F. BUNBURY, Esq.

The Rev. J. W. DONALDSON, D.D.  
T. G. HAKE, Esq., M.D.  
The Rev. EDWIN SIDNEY, M.A.  
The Rev. J. B. P. DENNIS, B.A.

DOORS OPEN AT HALF-PAST SEVEN. CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT EIGHT.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ADMITTED ON PRODUCTION OF THEIR TICKETS: NON-MEMBERS, SIXPENCE EACH.

*Programme of Lectures, Exhibitions, and Conversazioni, for the Session of 1853-54.*

### LECTURES:

1853—Tuesday, Oct. 4.	The Opening Meeting	By Hon. & Rev. Lord A. Hervey, M.A., in the Chair.
Oct. 25.	"Household Philosophy," with Experiments	Rev. Edw. Sidney, M.A.
Nov. 1.	"The Progress of English Vocal Melody, with Illustrations, Vocal & Instrumental"	Sir H. R. Bishop, Bart., Prof. Mus. Oxon., accompanied by Miss Thornton
Nov. 15.	"The Jews,"	By Hon. & Rev. Lord A. Hervey, M.A.
Nov. 29.	"Scientific Pursuits as a Recreation," with Experiments	W. W. Bonham, Esq., F.R.S.
Dec. 15.	"The Music of Various Nations," with Illustrations	Henry Phillips, Esq.
Dec. 27.	An Oxy-hydrogen Exhibition	Rev. J. B. P. Dennis, B.A.
Jan. 10.	"The Death of Life," with Experiments	T. G. Hake, Esq., M.D.
1854—Tuesday, Feb. 7.	A Musical Entertainment	Vocalist—Miss Birch
Feb. 28.	A Lecture	Henry Phillips, Esq.
Mar. 7.	"Shared Music" with Vocal Illustrations	Accompanied on the Piano-forte by Mr. Robert Nunn
Mar. 21.	A Lecture	Rev. Edwin Sidney, M.A.
Apr. 4.	"The Pencil Rights of our Gentlemen and Ladies," with Illuminated Diagrams	Sir H. R. Bishop, Bart., Prof. Mus. Oxon.
Apr. 18.	"The Progress of Vocal Melody in Italy, France, and Germany," with Illustrations	accompanied by Miss Thornton
May 2.	"The First Annual Meeting of the Athenæum,"	By Hon. & Rev. Lord A. Hervey, M.A., in the Chair

THE ASTRONOMER ROYAL, G. B. AIRY, ESQ., AND THE REV. PROFESSOR HENSLOW

Have expressed their intention of delivering each a Lecture, with Illustrations, during the Session: the dates of which, when fixed, will be announced.

### CONVERSAZIONI:

1854—Tuesday, Jan. 24. A Scientific Conversazione. Tuesday, Feb. 21. A Literary and Artistic Conversazione.

*The following Gentlemen have kindly promised, circumstances permitting, to read Papers at the above Conversazioni—*

The Right Hon. and Rev. Lord A. Hervey, M.A., Sir John Walsham, Bart., The Rev. W. Kingsley, M.A., T. G. Hake, Esq., M.D., The Rev. J. B. P. Dennis, B.A., &c., &c.

### THE CLASSES

*Handwritten notices have already been forwarded, and are sent to the Members—*

PASSED LAMINAE—Wednesday, 8 o'clock, p.m. .... Miss Colburn | ENGLISH GRAMMAR—Friday, 7 o'clock, p.m. .... Mr. F. M. Jones  
DRAWINGS—(Perspective), Thursday, 7 o'clock, p.m. .... Mr. Wright | MUSIC—(Instrumental) Monday, 8 o'clock, p.m. .... By the Members.

### THE RE-UNIONS, READINGS, & MINOR LECTURES

Will be held in the Class Rooms of the Athenæum, on the alternate Tuesday Evenings to the Lectures and Conversazioni.

NOTE.—To the Young Men and Young Ladies of the Town this Institute offers peculiar advantages. For an Annual Subscription of 5s. and 10s. respectively, but only have they two admissions to a limited number of Lectures and Conversazioni on Domestic Art, Science, and Music—on admission to the Museum, Archaeological Meetings, Classes, and the Conversazioni, their full 10s. ticket each having, in a convenient and commodious Reading Room, supplied with all the leading Journals and Periodicals. Not less than 1000, open 2 o'clock, p.m. till 10 o'clock, p.m., in a Library, and shared with the best Authors in History, Philosophy, Poetry, and Science.

C. W. JONES, Hon. Sec.

PRINTED BY W. T. JACKSON ANGEL HILL, BURY ST. EDMUND'S

“ The General Quarterly Meetings, of which three have been held—two at Bury and one at Clare, were numerous attended and well supplied with papers and objects for exhibition. The meeting at Clare the Committee would adduce as a proof of the advantage of not confining the meetings to one locality. The attendance of members on that occasion was very large ; the exhibition various and extensive ; and the pre-existing love of archæology has thereby been so fostered as to induce a hope that ere long the history and antiquities of that town, so intimately connected with our national annals, will be fully elucidated and published under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. Wightman, a member of the Institute. For the ensuing year arrangements are in progress for meetings at Ixworth in the month of June, and at Thetford in September. At the latter place the Committee hope to have the pleasure of meeting the archæologists of the county of Norfolk ; the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society having cordially responded to the invitation which the last General Meeting directed to be made to them.

“ The Committee have to acknowledge with gratitude a liberal donation of 20L. from the Marquess of Bristol, President of the Institute ; and of 10L. from Sir T. R. Gage, Bart., one of its Vice-Presidents, who, with a view to promote the formation of a Library of Suffolk Topography and Archæology in connection with the Institute, has also presented copies of the valuable works of the late Mr. Gage Rokewode. Several other books, documents, and illustrations have been presented ; and the Committee trust that the zeal and liberality of the members will enable them to realize their desire of making the Institute a common depository for all records, of whatever kind, connected with the district of the Society.

A few antiquarian specimens have been presented ; and through the kindness of Messrs. Jackson, Sparke, and Holmes, of Mr. Borton, the Rev. C. R. Manning, and Mr. W. S. Fitch, the Committee are in possession of casts of more than 500 seals connected with the Monastic, Baronial, Corporate, and Personal History of the County of Suffolk.

“ The offices of Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary are submitted to annual election.

“ The members of the Committee who retire agreeably to Rule 7, are the Rev. C. H. Bennet, the Rev. J. W. Donaldson, W. B. Donne, Esq., and the Rev. C. J. Phipps Eyre. These gentlemen are eligible for re-election.

“ The Committee would submit to the meeting the propriety of making the following alterations in the Rules.—

“ III. The annual subscription to be due on the 1st instead of the 16th of March.

“ VI. To erase the words on the 16th of March.

“ X. To substitute the following, ‘ All the affairs of the Institute shall be under the direction and management of the Committee, except so far as they are otherwise provided for by any of these rules and regulations.’

“ XI. To erase Rule XI. and to add to Rule XII. ‘ The March Meeting to be the Annual Meeting, to elect Officers ; to revise the Rules ; and to receive a report from the Committee on the affairs of the Society.’

“ To add the following Rule as Rule XII. ‘ Each member may introduce a lady to the General Meetings.’

“ For permission to hold the General Meetings in the Public Library room, and the Committee Meetings in the Library of the Botanic Gardens, the best thanks of the Institute are due to the Council of the West Suffolk Library, and to Mr. N. S. Hodson.

“ The report of the Treasurer shows that the income of the Society for the past year has been 56L. 5s. ; and that the sum of 41L. 7s. 11d. has been expended, leaving a balance in hand of 14L. 17s. 1d.

## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT, March 1, 1849.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received ...	26	5	0	Printing Part I of Proceedings	8	10	0
Donation from the Marquess of				—Rules, Notices, etc. ...	5	9	6
Bristol ...	20	0	0	Engraving Wood Cuts ...	1	15	0
Ditto, Sir T. R. Gage, Bart. ...	10	0	0	Stationery ...	1	16	11
				Books for Institute Library ...	1	1	0
				Casts of near 600 Suffolk Seals	4	6	0
				Case for Antiquities, etc. ...	11	7	0
				Expenses of Meetings ...	2	8	0
				Postage, Parcels, Portage, etc.	4	14	5
				Balance in hands of Treas. ...	14	17	1
	£56	5	0		£56	5	0

The present Treasurer of the Institute will doubtless be interested to note the cost of printing Part I of the *Proceedings*, and to compare it with the £200 which he pays out for each part to-day. He will also doubtless detect the error of one penny in the addition. The Report and Account are followed by a long list, with descriptions, of the exhibits brought to the meeting by various members.

And so the Institute, now firmly established, continued on its way : holding meetings and excursions in various towns of West Suffolk at regular intervals. Exhibits were brought by members and often presented to the Society : Papers were read and subsequently printed in the *Proceedings*. At the second Annual meeting, held at Bury on 20th March, 1850, a membership of 204 was reported, an increase of 47 for the year. In 1851 it had reached 226, a further increase of 22. We may note three decisions which were taken at this latter meeting :—(1) The Rev. Henry Hasted, the venerable gentleman who took the chair at the inaugural meeting in 1848, was elected a Vice-President, (2) the activities of the Institute were to “extend to all parishes which, although not locally situated in West Suffolk, form part of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury” and (3) It was decided to invite the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland to hold their next East Anglian Congress in Bury St. Edmunds, three gentlemen being appointed to bear this invitation to the ensuing Congress to be held at Bristol.

On 4th September, 1851, members visited Ely Cathedral, where they were received and entertained by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ely.

“After partaking of an elegant collation, the Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey, Vice-President, on the part of the Institute, expressed their thanks to his Lordship for his most hospitable entertainment.”

At the Annual Meeting held 25th March, 1852, we learn of the answer to the invitation extended to the Archæological Institute to hold its Congress at Bury,

“It was favourably received, but it is feared that arrangements previously contemplated will prevent for some years the realization of your wishes.”

The Fifth Annual Meeting, held on 13th April, 1853, at Bury, under the chairmanship of Lord Arthur Hervey, was a milestone in the history of the Institute, because at it certain important decisions were taken,



calculated to increase its stature and scope. Evidently a public meeting had already been held to formulate

“ A scheme for consolidating the various literary and scientific institutions of Bury St. Edmunds into one efficient and dignified Institution.”

A Special Meeting of the Bury and West Suffolk Archæological Institute was held to consider the whole question, in so far as the proposals affected Archæology and, as a result the Committee submitted the following report to the Annual Meeting of 1853.

“ The Committee, in making their Fifth Annual Report, have to inform the members that in pursuance of Resolutions unanimously agreed to at a Special Meeting held on the 13th day of January, 1853, arrangements have been made for placing the Institute in union with the Bury St. Edmund's Athenæum ; by which the valuable collection of specimens hitherto known as the Bury and West Suffolk Museum will come under the direction of the Institute ; and for the temporary reception and display of which a commodious house has been provided. It has therefore been deemed advisable to widen the range of the Society's action, by taking in the whole county of Suffolk, and to extend its sphere of research by embracing every department of the Natural History as well as of the Archæology of the district. With this view it is proposed to alter the title of the Society to the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History.

“ To extend the existing Museum and Library, and to form a Gallery of Art, to which each member shall have access for himself and friends.

“ To hold, as usual, four meetings in the year, for the exhibition of objects and specimens, and for reading communications explanatory thereof, or in elucidation of any subject connected with the objects of the Society.

“ And as these important extensions can only be carried out by a large increase of funds, it is proposed to raise the subscription from 5s. per annum.—a sum hitherto felt to be too small—to 10s. per annum ; and earnestly to invite all who take an interest in any branch of Natural History, and who desire to see the science of their county adequately represented and set forth, to give their countenance and support to the Society.

“ As various alterations in the Rules are necessary to meet the new requirements of the Institute, the Committee have adopted the following code :

I. That the Society be called the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History ; but shall extend to all parishes which, although not locally situated in the county, form part of the Archdeaconries which take their titles from places within the county.

II. That the objects of the Society shall be :

1. To collect and PUBLISH information on the Archæology and Natural History of the District.
2. To form a MUSEUM and LIBRARY of Natural History and Antiquities ; and a GALLERY OF ART, with especial reference to original portraits of Suffolk Worthies.
3. To procure careful observation and preservation of Antiquities and other specimens discovered in the progress of public works, such as Railways, foundations of buildings, etc.
4. To encourage individuals or public bodies in making researches and excavations, and afford them suggestions and co-operation.
5. To oppose and prevent as far as may be practicable, any injuries with which ancient Monuments of every description may from time to time be threatened ; and to collect accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions thereof.

III. That each Member pay an Annual Subscription of TEN SHILLINGS, to be due in advance on the 6th of April, and each Member shall be considered to belong to the Institute until he withdraw from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary. Donors of the amount of 10 years' subscription shall be life members. An additional subscription of 16s. will entitle the member to admission to the News-room, Library, Lectures, etc. of the Bury Athenæum.

IV. That each Member be entitled to three admissions to the Museum, Library,

and Meetings of the Institute, and to a copy of the Printed "Proceedings."

V. That the affairs of the Institute, except so far as they are otherwise provided for by any of these Rules and Regulations, shall be under the direction and management of a Committee of six members, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, together with the President, two Directing Vice-Presidents, and three Members of the Council of the Bury St. Edmund's Athenaeum. The six elected members to retire annually, but be re-eligible. Members not residing in Bury may vote by proxy in writing (general or special) intrusted to some other member who shall be present at the annual meeting.

VI. That the Committee shall appoint a Secretary, who shall thereupon become an ex-officio Member of the Committee, and shall act as Treasurer; shall supply any vacancy that may occur in their number during the year; and shall have power to nominate Honorary Members.

VII. That the Committee shall meet once in every month; three to be a quorum, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.

VIII. That Four General Meetings be held on some day in the months of March, June, September, and December, for the Exhibition of Antiquities, Works of Art, and specimens of Natural History, and the reading and consideration of communications from Members or others.

IX. That Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee when they think advisable.

X. That all papers printed by this Society shall be considered the property of the Society; but the Committee shall receive communications from Members, who are writing with other objects in view, and return the same, after perusal, to the Authors.

Briefly, the Institute was united with the Athenaeum, its scope was widened to include the whole of Suffolk and its name was altered to its present one, namely, the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, the latter subject to be included henceforth in its activities. The union with the Athenaeum was not destined to be permanent, as will be seen later.<sup>1</sup>

The first volume of the *Proceedings*, consisting of seven parts was completed in 1853, being printed by Barker & Son of Bury. It includes a list of members, dated 1852, showing a total of 213 and four Honorary Members.

It seems probable that at the Annual Meeting in 1853, Lord Arthur Hervey<sup>2</sup> was elected President, his brother, Lord Bristol, who had hitherto filled that post, becoming Patron of the newly constituted Institute. Lord Arthur is certainly designated "President" at a Meeting held 17th June of that year.

Meanwhile, a Museum and Library had been formed and both were rapidly growing. The latter formed the nucleus of the valuable collection which is now housed, with the Cullum Library, at Bury. It comprises a fine library of books on Suffolk history and topography as well as several important manuscripts, such as the unique *Jermyn* and *Blois* MSS.

The following extract from the Report submitted to the Annual Meeting at Eye, 27th April, 1854, shows that the Institute was alive to the urgent need for the preservation of archives, a subject which is to-day a matter of concern to all historians:

<sup>1</sup> According to White's *Suffolk*, 1885, the Athenaeum was established in this year, 1853, and occupied a house in Guildhall Street. Later, it moved to the Assembly Rooms on Angel Hill, which had been built in 1804 at a cost of £5000. This building was purchased from the Shareholders by the Athenaeum for £2500.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Arthur Hervey (1808-1894) later Bishop of Bath and Wells (1869).

"The Committee are desirous also, as opportunities offer, of acquiring not only antiquities, original deeds, and MSS., but views, portraits, and representations, engraved or otherwise, in any way illustrative of the topography of the county. They have to thank many kind friends for donations already received ; but as these objects can only be accomplished at a great cost unless aided by the individual efforts of the members themselves ; and as fresh instances of the destruction or removal to a distance of important records of every kind are continually coming to their knowledge, the Committee would earnestly appeal to all who may possess some solitary and perhaps now ill-appreciated document or specimen, to allow such to be added to the Society's gatherings, and thus become available to all who may feel interested in them."

Although the members had been disappointed in the reply to their invitation three years previously, it is gratifying to read that on 7th July, 1854, the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, then holding its Congress at Cambridge, paid a visit to Bury as the guest of the Suffolk Institute.

"The Company, between 300 and 400, then visited the various objects of interest in the town . . . at half-past two, about 200 ladies and gentlemen sat down to a collation at the Townhall. The Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey took the chair. . . ."

The Museum was now an integral part of the Institute, as the following sonorous passages show :

"The Members will be pleased to know that the Society's contribution, from their own Museum and from the private collections of its Members, formed a gratifying feature in the extensive assemblage of antiquities, temporarily formed at Cambridge by the Institute of Great Britain. The Committee cannot but refer with much satisfaction to the progress of their own Museum, as exhibiting important and permanent results of the spirit of that scientific inquiry which it is the object of the Institute to promote, and which they trust will produce still more marked instances of usefulness from the concentration and more perfect arrangement of the Institute's collections in the beautiful room which has been provided for them in the Bury Athenæum. The Museum has been a frequent and pleasant resort of the Members and the public, who have shown by their numbers how highly they appreciate the spirit which has set apart stated times for general admission. Many donations of interest have been made, and the Committee would again most earnestly invite its Members to extend the efficiency of this department by the contribution of such antiquities, documents, drawings, prints and singular specimens, as may come into their hands. In an isolated and inaccessible state such things are of comparatively little value, but when brought into association with others of a kindred character they become of inestimable use in the elucidation of the science of the county and in improving the judgment and taste of the student."

At Norton, 24th April, 1856,

"The Committee, acting on the suggestion of several gentlemen who take a deep interest in the statistics of the county, that the Society should include this important branch of science among its objects—propose to alter the title of the Institute to "The Suffolk Institute of Archæology, *Statistics* and Natural History", and to open the pages of its Journal to the publication of the results of statistical enquiries."

The statistical minded gentlemen do not, however, appear to have taken advantage of this offer, because no such material was printed in the *Proceedings* and the word "*Statistics*" was later dropped from the title of the Institute, probably on the occasion of the next and final re-organisation in 1867-8.

At the 1856 meeting, it was also announced that T. W. King, Esq., *York Herald*, had designed a Seal for the Institute :

"It is circular in form and represents the crown of St. Edmund the King, with two arrows in Saltire, passing through the circlet (in reference to his martyrdom, taken from the ancient armorial bearings of the Abbey at Bury) within a circle of trefoils, which bear allusion to the noble patron of the Institute<sup>1</sup>. The legend is :—

✠ S : ANTIQVARIORVM. SVFFOLCIENSIVM."

This Seal adorned the *Proceedings* up to about 1871, when it was lost after the death of Samuel Tymms, who was then printer to the Institute. Another Seal was cut in 1887 and has been in use ever since.

In 1858, the Institute decided to issue at frequent intervals in addition to the *Proceedings*, and free of cost to Members, "a sheet of *Notes and Queries* about matters in every branch of the Institute's inquiries". This venture proved expensive, and in 1861, after some nine parts had been issued to Members, it was arranged that Mr. Tymms should undertake to continue publication on his own account<sup>2</sup>.

The next event of importance in the history of the Institute occurred in 1867-8. In December, 1867, the following letter was sent to members :

Ickworth,  
December 26th, 1867.

Sir,

On behalf of the Committee of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, etc., I beg leave to inform you that the Institute is now separated from the Bury St. Edmund's Athenæum, and forms an independent County Society.

It is earnestly hoped that this change in its constitution will give new life and impetus to the Society, and widely extend its influence in the County. With a view to ensuring its efficiency, and conciliating the confidence of persons interested in Archæological researches, the Committee have obtained the assistance, as Honorary Secretaries, of several gentlemen eminently learned in several branches of Archæology. With their help it is hoped that the publications of the Institute will be thoroughly satisfactory to the Members, and that the Quarterly Meetings will also be conducive to the spread of sound antiquarian knowledge.

I enclose herewith a copy of the proposed Rules, and a provisional list of the Officers of the Society, to be presented for acceptance to the next Quarterly Meeting of Members.

I venture to express the hope that you will allow your name to be enrolled among the List of Members, and to request that you will kindly send an early answer either to me, or to Edward M. Dewing, Esq., Bury St. Edmund's.

I remain, Sir,

Your faithful servant,  
ARTHUR HERVEY,  
President.

at the Annual Meeting, held at Bury, 22nd May, 1868, being :—

"the first annual meeting since the separation from the Bury St. Edmunds Athenæum, The President (Lord Arthur Hervey) opened the proceedings by referring to what had

<sup>1</sup> The arms of Hervey are, *gu., on a bend arg., three trefoils slipped vert.*

<sup>2</sup> The full title was "*The East Anglian or Notes and Queries, on subjects connected with the counties of Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex and Norfolk.*" Vols. I-IV of the Original Series (1864-1869) were printed by Samuel Tymms at Lowestoft. The publication was revived, under the same title, with the Rev. C. H. Evelyn White as Editor, in January 1885. Of this New Series, Vols. I-XIII were published (1885-1910). The gap between 1869 and 1885 was partially filled by the issue, in 1872-3, of *The Eastern Counties Collectanea*, edited by John L'Estrange, and containing similar material relating to the same counties. The present writer possesses the late Dr. George W. Marshall's copy of this book complete with index and on the last page is the following manuscript note :

"John L'Estrange the editor of this work was sentenced to 7 years penal servitude at Norwich, 4th August, 1877, for forging certain accounts of stamps, and also stealing stamps to the value of £1,355. He is said to have been the bastard son of one of the L'Estranges of Hunstanton ; and was a papist. He committed suicide in prison soon after his sentence. I knew him personally and often corresponded with him. There are only 50 complete copies of this book. G.W.M."

been done, and congratulating the members upon the progress made in the re-organization, and the fact of the Suffolk Institute being once more an independent County Society."

Edward M. Dewing, Esq. was now Honorary Secretary, Mr. Samuel Tymms being elected an Honorary Member on his retirement from the Secretarial chair. New Rules were adopted, including raising the subscription from 5s. 0d. to 10s. 0d. a year; and it was decided to issue a *Quarterly Journal* containing accounts of meetings and excursions of the Institute. The first number was issued in January, 1869, containing accounts of meetings from 1866 to 1868, as well as various notes on Archæology and Natural History. A second number was issued in June of the same year, but after that no further examples of this publication can be traced. Tables of contents of these two numbers are included in the various indexes which follow this paper.

In 1869 a hope cherished by the Suffolk Institute for 18 years was realised. The (by now) *Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* held its Annual Meeting at Bury St. Edmunds from Tuesday, 20th to Tuesday, 27th July. A very comprehensive programme was arranged, including the establishment of a temporary Museum at Bury, at which were exhibited objects and documents of Archæological interest drawn from the whole county. Lectures were delivered, papers were read and discussions were initiated. On several days, excursions were arranged to various churches, castles and historic houses, including a journey by special train to Framlingham and Ipswich.

The somewhat tangled history of the Institute's first 20 years has been treated fairly fully, but after 1870 there seem to have been no major changes in its constitution and no outstanding events in its development. But much useful work was done in the Archæological field and very many important articles were published in the *Proceedings*. Excursions were held in almost every corner of the county and became more and more popular as the means of transport improved.

In 1877, the Institute offered the contents of the Museum to the Town Council of Bury St. Edmunds. This offer was accepted but, owing to lack of suitable alternative accommodation, the collection remained at the Athenaeum until Moyse's Hall was opened as the Corporation Museum in 1899.

In 1870 Lord John Hervey succeeded his uncle, Lord Arthur, as President, upon the latter leaving the county to become Bishop of Bath & Wells. Lord John held the position until 1886 when he resigned the office owing to a difference of opinion with the Committee. He was a very able and active historian; among his contributions to the history of Suffolk may be mentioned his translation and publication, 1888-1891, of the Suffolk portion of Domesday Book, and the *Ickworth Survey Boock*. He continued to serve on the Committee and took an active interest in the affairs of the Institute until his death in 1902.

In 1887 the rules were re-drafted and this operation was again carried out in the period 1902-1906. In 1903 the Library was moved from the Athenaeum, where it had been housed since its formation, to Moyse's

Hall, where it was destined to remain for the next thirty years, after which it returned to the Athenaeum. In 1946, another change was made, this time to the School of Art building in Bury, where our books and manuscripts are now housed in a room adjoining the Cullum Library.

The Institute managed to keep alive through the first world war and the *Proceedings* were published without a break, although in a somewhat shortened form. Naturally no excursions were held during the war. But in 1920 the rising cost of printing made it necessary to raise the subscription from 10s. 0d., at which figure it had remained since 1868, to 15s. 0d. It may perhaps be added here that a similar problem faces the Council at the present time.

From the beginning, the emphasis in the Institute's activities had always lain on Archæology and History, very little having been published on Natural History<sup>1</sup>.

This led to the formation, in 1929, of the Suffolk Naturalists Society, which has thrived and prospered under the able and energetic secretaryship of Mr. Claude Morley, the five volumes of its *Transactions* forming a learned and scientific survey of the flora and fauna of the county. The retention of the words "*and Natural History*" in our title is, therefore, somewhat anomalous.

This brings to a close an attempt to set out the early history, growth and evolution of the Institute during the first century of its existence. But it will be convenient and perhaps of interest to append below notes upon certain aspects of its life and work.

**MEMBERSHIP.**—As has been seen, at the first annual meeting in 1849, 157 members were reported. During the next half century they fluctuated considerably and at the turn of the century there were about 200 members. In 1913 the figure had risen to 242 and in 1921 it was 250. The record was reached in 1935 when a membership of 435 was announced. In 1939 it had dropped to just under 400, while at the present time, after the changes brought about by the war, we are over the 400 mark.

**OFFICERS.**—The office of Patron appears to have been introduced in 1853 when the 1st Marquis of Bristol was elected. He was succeeded by the 2nd Marquis who served in that capacity from 1859 to 1864. The 3rd Marquis was Patron during the long period 1864-1907, when the only break occurred in the tenure of the office by the Hervey family. The office was vacant for a short time until Sir William Brampton Gurdon was elected in 1908, remaining in this capacity for two years. The present Lord Bristol (4th Marquis) has been Patron of the Institute since 1911.

A list of the Presidents and Honorary Secretaries is given below. It will be observed that both Sir John Wood and the Rev. H. A. Harris created records by having served the Institute in their respective offices for no less than a quarter of a century, when they both resigned in 1946.

<sup>1</sup> Although a notable exception is, of course, Babington's *Birds of Suffolk*, published in Vol. V of the *Proceedings*: this work, later issued as a separate volume of nearly 300 pages, remained the standard text-book on the subject until the publication of Dr. Ticehurst's "*History of the Birds of Suffolk*", in 1932.

*Presidents.*

1848	Marquis of Bristol
1853	Lord Arthur Hervey
1870	Lord John Hervey
1886	Lord Henniker, F.S.A.
1902	Sir Wm. Brampton Gurdon, K.C.M.G.
1908	Gery Milner-Gibson-Cullum, Esq., F.S.A.
1921	Sir John Wood, Bt.
1946	Sir John Tilley, G.C.M.G.

*Hon. Secretaries.*

1848	Samuel Tymms Esq., F.S.A.
1867	Edw. May Dewing, Esq.
1870	{ E. M. Dewing, Esq. Rev. S. B. Turner, F.S.A.
1878	{ Rev. S. B. Turner, F.S.A. Samuel J. Harrison, Esq.
1882	F. Machell Smith, Esq.
1884	{ F. Machell Smith, Esq. Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A.
1885	{ E. M. Dewing, Esq. Rev. C. H. Evelyn White, F.S.A.
1887	{ E. M. Dewing, Esq. Rev. Francis Haslewood, F.S.A.
1889	Rev. Francis Haslewood, F.S.A.
1898	Vincent B. Redstone, Esq., F.S.A.
1904	Rev. Frederick E. Warren, F.S.A.
1913	Rev. Arthur Wm. Darwin
1917	Miss Nina Frances Layard, F.S.A.
1920	Guy Maynard, Esq.
1921	Rev. H. A. Harris
1946	R. F. Collins, Esq.
1947	Thomas Panther, Esq.

PUBLICATIONS.—The first volume, consisting of 7 parts, was printed by Barker and Sons, Bury St. Edmunds and completed in 1853.

The title page bears the following words : “ Proceedings of the Bury and West Suffolk Archæological Institute, established March, 1848, for the Collection and Publication of information on the Ancient Arts and Monuments of the Western Division of Suffolk, and Archdeaconry of Sudbury, Volume 1. Bury St. Edmunds : printed by Barker and Son, 26 Hatter Street. MDCCCLIII ”.

This was followed in 1859 by volume II, also of 7 parts, printed by Tymms at Lowestoft, under the title of “ Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, Statistics and Natural History ”. Volume III consisted of 3 parts only and was dated 1863, from the same press. Tymms dying in 1871, volume IV, again of 7 parts, was completed in 1874, the printing being taken over by George Thompson, Bury St. Edmunds. In this volume the word “ *Statistics* ” was omitted from the title page, which has remained the same up to the present day. Volume V consisting of 5 parts, appeared in 1886 and was printed at Bury by Catling and Ranson (successors to E. L. Barker). Volume VI reverted to 3 parts and this has remained the practice ever since. This volume was printed at the Ancient House Press, Ipswich, by Pawsey and Hayes and issued in 1888. This press has been responsible for the Institute’s publications for the last 60 years, although about 1893 the printer’s name is given as F. Pawsey. On part iii of volume IX (1897) the name of W. E. Harrison appears for the first time.

The 24 volumes of *Proceedings* which have been issued up-to-date are packed with material of all sorts, relating to the history and antiquities of the county. It is impossible here to mention more than a few of the

articles, but a complete list will be found in the Index following. Special attention should, however, be drawn to such outstanding contributions as :—

“ Ickworth and the family of Hervey ”, by Lord Arthur Hervey (Vol. II); Pigot’s “ History of Hadleigh ” (Vol. III); “ Materials for a History of Hesselst ” (Vols. IV and V); Haslewood’s work on Denston (Vol. VI); “ The Survey of Suffolk Church Plate ” (Vols. VIII and IX); Redstone’s “ Calendar of Pre-Reformation Wills at Bury ”, published as a supplement to Vol. XII; and Farrer’s invaluable description and index of the *Blois* MSS. in the Institute’s Library, (Vol. XIV).

Among the Special Publications of the Institute may be mentioned; Rye’s, “ Suffolk Fines ” (1900); Redstone’s “ Ship Money Returns ” (1904) and “ Household Book of Dame Alice de Bryene, 1412-13 ” (1931). A catalogue of the Library was printed in 1933<sup>1</sup>.

EXCURSIONS.—Second only to the publications of its *Proceedings*, the main activity of the Institute from its inception has been the organisation of excursions for its members to churches, houses and other places of historical interest in the county. A complete list of the places visited is given later on and also a map showing the geographical coverage during one hundred years. It will be seen that more than half the parishes in the county have received the attention of members. A notable omission is perhaps Saxmundham, which does not seem to have been visited once during the hundred years.

Some archæologists have always regarded the mere attendance at excursions as sterile and unprofitable. One cynic declared that “ Archæologists are divided by the scientific into four classes :—(1) The Archæologist proper, (2) the *Harkæologist*, who comes to listen, (3) the *Larkæologist*, who comes for the fun of the thing, (4) the *Sharkæologist*, who comes for the luncheon.”<sup>2</sup> At a later date, another gentleman declared at a meeting that many of the members were not Archæologists at all, but merely “ Excursionists ”.

Although the lasting value of excursions cannot compare with that of the publication of articles and original matter, it is evident that, by their means, members are enabled to inspect and hear informed discourses upon, some of the antiquities of the county which they would not otherwise do. Further, it is to be hoped that these outings will inspire present members to undertake a special study of some matter of archæological or topographical interest and to submit the result of their researches for publication in the *Proceedings*, and thus make a positive contribution to the work of the Institute. Short notes on “ finds ” and similar matters will always be welcome.

<sup>1</sup> A large stock of the Institute’s publications is held at the Ancient House, although certain parts of the *Proceedings* are now out of print. Members are invited to inspect these and to purchase, at reduced prices, any available parts which they may require, and also copies of the special publications.

<sup>2</sup> This allusion can be better understood by present members if they will glance at the following menu of the luncheon served at the Bell Hotel, Thetford, on August 14th, 1913, when the Institute visited that town :—Roast lamb, mint sauce; Boiled round of beef; Roast chickens; Ham; Roast ribs of Beef; Beefsteak pie; Salads; Potatoes; Stewed fruit; Custard; Wine jellies; Blanc Mange; Mixed pastry; Cheese.





PLATE IV.

ALL SAINTS', DUNWICH, 23 June, 1890.



PLATE V.

LONG MELFORD HALL, 20 June, 1895.



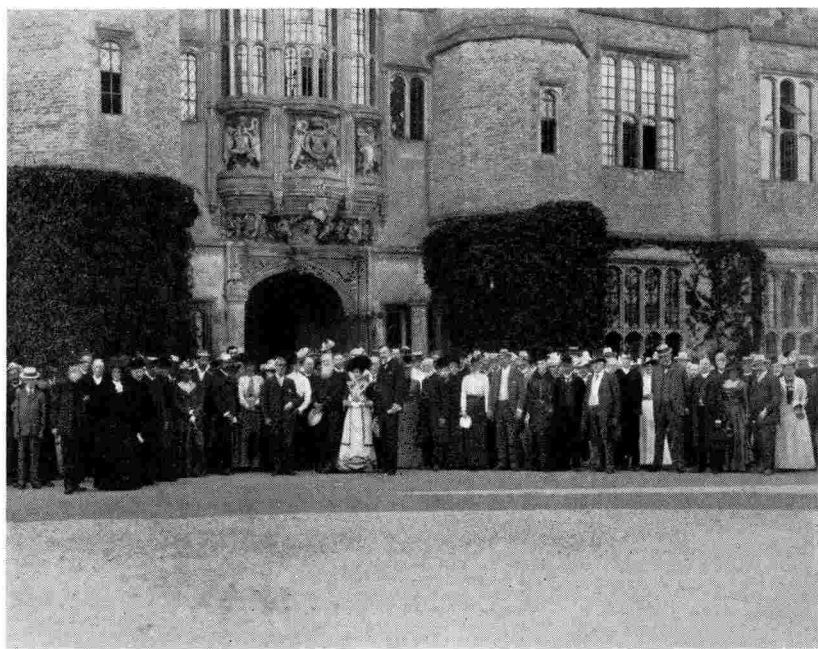
PLATE VI.

OLD MINSTER, SOUTH ELMHAM, 25 June, 1896.

PLATE VII.



ORFORD RECTORY, 23 June, 1898.



HENGRAVE HALL, 10 August, 1922.

EXCAVATIONS.—The Institute has always encouraged the excavation of ancient sites in the county, although financial considerations have in the past limited its active participation. It, however, subscribed to, and supported, such undertakings as the excavations at Bury Abbey in 1902-1904 and again in 1912-1914. More recently, it helped considerably the work carried out by Mr. Guy Maynard and Mr. Basil Brown at Stanton Chair, Ixworth, in 1936.

CONCLUSION.—This ends the present attempt to outline the history and evolution of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History from its birth in 1848 to the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary. The contribution to historical knowledge which it has made during this long period, has been an important one and has been due to the energy and enthusiasm of its many members. It is greatly to be hoped that present and future members will see to it, by their own contribution to its work, that the second century of the Institute shall be no less useful.